

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

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## BIRTH.

On the 4th July, at No. 1, De Vœux Villas, The Peak, the wife of C. H. GALE, P. W. Dept., of a son.

**Hongkong Weekly Press.**

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## ARRIVAL OF MAIIS

The French Mail of the 4th ultimo arrived per s.s. *Tamba Maru* on the 6th inst.

The English Mail of the 11th ultimo and the parcel mails closed in London for despatch by the all sea route on the 2nd June and for despatch overland on the 9th June, arrived per s.s. *Delta* on the 7th inst.

## FAR EASTERN NEWS.

A branch of the International Banking Corporation has just been opened at Peking.

Mr. A. V. Tonjiline, who has been attached to the Russian Legation in Peking, has been appointed Consul at Foochow.

A branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank has been opened at Canton under the charge of Mr. R. R. Hynd as agent.

Messrs. Smith, Bell & Co., of Manila, have been awarded the contract to furnish the U. S. Army with 6,000 barrels of cement.

We note that H. E. the Viceroy of Canton has applied to Peking to sanction the opening of Huangchow (near Macao) as a free port.

We are officially informed that telegraphic advice has been received that the Netherlands India Commercial Bank has declared a dividend of 10 per cent. for the year ending 31st December, 1908.

We are informed that no date has yet been fixed for the conference of the Commissioners appointed to delimitate the boundary of Macao.

The Singapore Municipality are inviting tenders for \$1,000,000 debenture stock carrying interest at 4½ per cent. The money is to be devoted to various public works.

The jubilee of the opening of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, falls this year. The Cathedral was opened to public worship on the 1st of August, 1859, and the fiftieth anniversary also falls upon a Sunday.

It is announced that President Taft, in pursuance of the new policy of commercial expansion in the Far East, has decided to send Mr. Nagel, Secretary for Commerce, on a special mission to the Hawaiian Islands, Japan & China.

It is announced that the marriage arranged between Mr. Ronald F. Easterbrook and Mrs. R. W. Little, widow of the late Mr. R. W. Little, of Shanghai, China, will take place quietly on Sunday, July 18, at the Parish Church, Bisham, Berks.

Captain Thomas J. Parry, commanding Collier No. 3 Quartermaster's Department, Manila, last week accidentally fell down the companionway leading into his quarters on the ship, sustaining a fracture at the base of the skull, resulting in his death.

The Japanese Government is reported to have ordered the weavers of Nishijin, Kioto, to make a large piece of ornamental brocade, which it is their intention to contribute to the Peace Palace founded by Mr. Carnegie at The Hague. The cost of the proposed contribution is about Y60,000.

A telegram has been received at H. B. M. Supreme Court, Shanghai, stating that his Honour Judge Lindsey Smith has been appointed Acting Assistant Judge, and that he will arrive in Shanghai on the 20th instant. Mr. Lindsey Smith has been Judge of H. B. M.'s Court at Zanzibar since 1904.

The proprietors of a Chinese newspaper named the *Universal Gazette* published at Shanghai are being tried in the Mixed Court on a charge of publishing alleged libellous articles about the Indian members of the Shanghai Municipal Police, and articles liable to create trouble between Chinese and Indians.

In view of the apparent cessation of the anti-Japanese boycott in China the principal Japanese dealers in marine products at Yokohama arranged to invite the leading Chinese merchants to Tonosawa, Hakone, recently to hold a social gathering for the purpose of improving relations between Japanese and Chinese merchants.

In an article on the Viceregal changes, the *N.-C. Daily News* says:—"If we in Shanghai mistrust the wisdom of sending Yuan hu-hsun to the extremely difficult Viceregency of Canton, it must be admitted that we have ample cause, although among the Chinese his Excellency's reputation is believed to stand high." Yuan was formerly Taotai at Shanghai.

The Report of Messrs. Moutrie and Co. Limited, for the year ending 31st March shows that the net profits, including the amount brought forward from last year's working, amounted to £17,003.65, which sum the Directors recommended be divided as follows:—To pay a dividend of 4 per cent., £12,336.00; to carry forward to the new account £4,667.65

Eight officers of the British army have up to the present qualified as interpreters in the Chinese and Japanese languages two in the first-named and six in the latter. In addition, 13 have "passed" in Chinese and 22 in Japanese, whilst 30 have "passed" in the late Chinese Regt. test.

It is announced that the ancient porcelain factory of Kingtehchen (Chintchén) in Kiangsi is to be reorganized on a grand scale under reformed conditions, at the instigation of the Board of Agriculture, Labour and Commerce Kingtehchen can show furnaces that have never been let out, night or day, for over 800 years. It is possibly the largest labour organization in China after the hydrogen gas and salt brine wells of Szechuan province.

The *N.-C. Daily News* states that the bulk of the work which the Huangpu Conservancy Board began to do two years ago at Gough Island and Woosung is now virtually accomplished. Our contemporary incidentally mentions that with all the real success that has been attained so far, it cannot be forgotten that the work was taken in hand without a proper estimate of its total cost, and that while the remaining funds may suffice to complete the works at Gough Island and Woosung, our contemporary understands that the whole scheme of operations must extend much farther than that.

A good deal of trouble is again being caused to Tientsin by the circulation of notes, generally of one and five dollar values, by small native banks or change shops. The notes have not even a proper address of the bank upon them, and naturally the banks issuing them have not enough cash reserves to cash their issue if presented at any one time. So long as the bills can be kept in circulation so good; but when it comes to getting hard cash for them it becomes quite a different affair. This unauthorized and practically swindling issue of these native notes, if not stopped in time, will assuredly lead to grave trouble and riots.—*China Critic*.

Another Langkat case is now occupying the attention of the Supreme Court at Shanghai. Mr. Miza Mehamet Tackey is claiming damages from Mr. R. S. F. McBain, for wrongfully and negligently allowing certain information acquired by him in the course of his business as a director and general agent of the *Matschappij Tot-Mijn-Bosch-en Landbouwexploitatie* in Langkat, Ltd., to be privately communicated to or to be obtained by certain persons other than the plaintiff and the general body of shareholders in the said company prior to the same being published to the said general body of shareholders whereby the plaintiff was damaged to the extent of Tls. 55,000.

Preparations for the car ferry between Shimonesaki and Moji seem to be progressing vigorously, and it is thought by the *Japan Mail* that the work will be finished by the autumn of this year. The contractor is Mr. Miyamoto and the contract price is 250,000 yen. Embankments are to be built on either side of the Strait, that on the Moji side extending as far as Dairi and that on the Shimonesaki side as far as Takesaki. Eight hundred ferry boats will be employed, and they will be in three separate lines so as to suit the state of the tide. It is expected that 30 cars will be able to cross at one time, and that ten crossings will be possible per diem. The fare, now 50 sen, will be reduced to 30 sen.

## THE DEFUNCT TRAMWAY BILL.

(*Daily Press*, 5th July.)

There has been no public outburst of grief over the death of the new Peak Tramway Bill; but that is not to say that its decease is not regretted by the public. It is generally recognised that the line would have been a great public convenience, especially the lower half of it, but it is around this particular section of the line that the opposition has centered, and the grounds of objection have been (1) the disturbance threatened by the running of the trams to worshippers in the Roman Catholic Cathedral, and (2) the vandalism involved by carrying the line in a deep cutting across the western corner of the new gardens. Of four routes suggested for this particular section in Glenealy, opposition was offered to every one but the scheme which included tunneling under the Public Gardens, and of this scheme the CHAIRMAN of the Peak Tramway Co. at the last annual meeting of shareholders said the engineer's estimate for this route was "enormous," and put its further consideration out of the question. When the Peak Tramway Company a few years ago acquired the rights in the entire scheme for a sum of \$25,000 from Mr. FINDLAY SMITH, the original promoter, they arranged for an increase of capital by half a million dollars, by the issue of 50,000 new shares, on which they made a first call of one dollar per share. We have frequently heard it suggested that there never has been any serious intention to proceed with the construction of the line, but we think the fact that the company provided for an increase of capital by half a million dollars and have spent considerable sums on surveys, &c., is fairly good evidence of intention. That intention was not improbably strengthened by reasons connected with the growing traffic on the existing line. Evidently, what has determined the fate of the project, is the estimated cost of construction. The increase of capital provided for by the Company, we understand, represents only about half the estimated cost of the new line according to the plan which involves a tunnel under the Public Gardens. Whereas the existing line was constructed twenty-one years ago with a capital of \$125,000, the new line, it is said, would need a capital of at least a million. If this represents the position, Hongkong is fated not to have another tram line to the Peak, or we cannot see at what point a remunerative line could be more cheaply made than over the route mapped out for the line which is now abandoned. So the Tramway Company in all probability remains secure from competition for many years to come. Not perhaps for ever, for who can tell but what we shall one day be transported to the Peak in airships?

## VICEREGAL CHANGES.

(*Daily Press*, 5th July.)

Everyone who has closely followed the events of the past two or three years at Canton will cordially endorse the PRINCE REGENT's commendation of His Excellency CHANG JEN CHUN as a tactful Viceroy. During his short regime, His Excellency has had to deal with some international difficulties of a delicate character, and that he has been able, on the one hand, to deal with these questions in a manner more or less satisfactory to the foreign Powers concerned, and on the other hand has been able to keep the notoriously turbulent elements of the Two Kwang well under control, proves that he lacks neither tact, wisdom nor firmness as an administrator. Before

Viceroy CHANG came to Canton we were constantly hearing of "risings" in various parts of the Two Kwang, and of engagements with the Imperial troops, but during the past two years and a half there has been almost an entire absence of such disturbances, despite the mischievous activities of the Self-Government Association which came into existence a couple of years ago. Viceroy CHANG's transfer to Nanking is, we believe, much regretted in Canton, as it certainly is in Hongkong. His Excellency's relations with the Government of Hongkong have always been of a markedly friendly character, and his recent contribution of two lakhs of dollars to the University Fund, coupled with a promise of further support, alike amply demonstrates the sincerity of the friendship and the progressive nature of his ideas. We trust these amicable relations will be maintained by his successor H.E. YUAN SHU-HSUN, who is promoted from the post of Governor of Shantung. His Excellency the new Viceroy is a native of Hunan and his sympathies are said to be anti-foreign. But we remember that similar reports were circulated of Viceroy CHANG before His Excellency came south, and we now know how false they were. Observing how highly Viceroy CHANG's services at Canton have been appreciated by his Imperial master, we may well believe that H.E. YUAN is regarded in Peking as a man no less wanting in tact than he is in ability, and His Excellency's record in the public service sufficiently suggests that he is likely to prove a worthy successor of H.E. Viceroy CHANG.

## FORTIFICATIONS IN KOREA.

(*Daily Press*, 6th July.)

Mr. LOSOFF has been seeking to kindle strife between Russia and Japan. Speaking at St. Petersburg at a meeting of the Far Eastern Investigation Society, he has been alluding to fortifications recently erected by Japan in Korea, and trying to persuade the Russian people that such fortifications could only have one object in view—the invasion of Russia, which he pretends to look upon as imminent. To point his moral he does not stop at misrepresentation, and accuses Japan of infringing the stipulations of the Treaty of Portsmouth by the erection of these fortifications. Of course the only stipulation entered into by Japan with regard to fortifications is that she shall not erect such along the frontier line, and the general question of fortifying Korea was not even mentioned on either side in the preliminary conferences which preceded the negotiation of the Treaty proper. In strengthening her defensive position in Korea, Japan has neither by direct action, nor by implication, however remote, infringed any of her stipulations with Russia, or the European Powers. We may, indeed, go further, and affirm that it was exactly to strengthen her defensive position in Korea, and so remove a constant temptation on the part of her neighbours to encroach, that the Protectorate was eventually coincided in, not only by Europe generally but by Russia herself. Most of all, then, is it unbecoming on the part of Russia to make any complaint of the steps that Japan has recently been taking towards securing her military position in the Peninsula.

It is not necessary for an understanding of the present attitude of Japan with regard to Korea to recapitulate the manner in which Russia became interested in the seaboard of Eastern Asia. Suffice it to say that in 1861 she came into posses-

sion of Eastern Manchuria. Practically at the time her position there was unassailable, as no Power, not even Great Britain, was at the time in a position to contest with her the command of these then distant regions. Russia, it was true, was at an enormous distance from her base; but she was already established as a military Power as far as Irkutsk on Lake Baikal, and had several military stations linking it up with her European territories. Great Britain had only her navy in these regions to depend on, and the art of transporting great armies by sea to distant campaigns had not as yet dawned. It was under these circumstances that the first care of Russia on taking possession of Vladivostock was to set about converting it into an Asiatic Sebastopol. For defensive purposes an arsenal in East Asia was entirely uncalled for; as well might she have sent out an expedition to fortify the North Pole. There could be no possible mistake as to Russia's real object, which was to render her intended impregnable fortress at Vladivostock a safe basis for further aggression. This became still more evident when after China's defeat at the hands of Japan, Russia first compelled Japan to surrender all her conquests in Shengking in consideration of an indemnity to be paid by China herself for the restoration; and afterwards, without any consideration on her own account, quietly in March, 1898, took possession of Port Arthur under pretence of leasing it. She was not long in occupation before she gave evidence as to her intention in seizing the port. She could no longer pretend that her last acquisition was of any service to her as a protective port, as it was separated by many hundreds of miles from her own territory; so she was bound in all consistency to allow that her seeking the new port was that Vladivostock was closed for some four to five months during the winter, and she needed an ice-free port. As a defensive measure, of course, this closure would increase rather than diminish the utility of Vladivostock; so the former argument was forgotten, and the action of Germany in Kiaochau Bay the previous year was held out as sufficient justification. However that was, Russia, as in the former case at once set to render her new acquisition a stronghold. The events of 1900 in Peking, soon led to disclosures of the very questionable course that negotiations between Russia and China had been taking. The EMPRESS DOWAGER, who had by the coup d'état of September, 1898, succeeded to power, was of all things desirous of getting rid of the pressure of the foreign representatives at Peking; and Russia, overtly, or by implication, permitted herself to be drawn into negotiations and the traitor LI HUNG CHANG became the medium. What Russia agreed to do on her side does not appear, but the fact remains that the DOWAGER REGENT, and her then henchman, Li, were perfectly ready for certain considerations to hand over to Russia the ancestral appanage of the Ta Tsing dynasty. But Li, had he been true to anyone else, would not have been true to his own character. At the Imperial coronation in the Kremlin in May, 1898, Li HUNG CHANG had been driven in a golden carriage about the streets of Moscow, and from that time became the devoted slave to Russia; so much so in fact as to incur the jealousy of the DOWAGER REGENT, who sent him to Canton—practically in banishment. It is a matter of history how, taking advantage of the troubles in Peking he returned uninvited, and at once recommenced his intrigues with Russia. Russia pleaded that Li had ceded to her the Manchu territories, but Li, true to his character, although he was

ready enough to sell his country, yet refused to affix his signature to the formal document, and died leaving it unsigned, notwithstanding the urgent pressure of the Russian Minister at his death-bed.

It soon became evident what had been the instigating motive of the previous preparations. Japan and China had been fighting for supremacy in Korea, and Japan had won the day, and had thus come into unfriendly competition with Russia, who in pursuance of her imaginary claims on Manchuria was now seeking a preponderating influence in the affairs of the peninsula. She had been negotiating for the acquisition of Masampo, as a convenient station for her fleet midway between Vladivostock and Port Arthur, and it became plain to Japan that her success, and its inevitable consequence—Russia's establishment of a chain of fortresses all along her western coast—would render Japan practically powerless in the event of Russia's next step being directed against herself. That such was her intention Russia made little attempt to conceal; having formed an incorrect idea of the true character of Japan's military and naval strength and conceiving that, as in the case of China, Japan would on the first threat of active hostilities quietly submit in the face of the advanced warlike preparations of her gigantic neighbour.

What followed needs little recapitulation. Japan saw that to yield to Russia's demands meant her own effacement as a nation, and this she was not prepared to take into consideration. Russia's responsible ministers saw too that they had been underestimating the military power of Japan, and had practically come to an agreement very much to the advantage of Russia. But the Tsar's irregular advisers, ALEXIEFF and BESABRA-SOFF, at the last moment turned the tables. The offer of Japan was rejected, and nothing remained but war. Under the circumstances Japan lost not a moment, and within the next twenty-four hours actual hostilities had been commenced. It had been Russia's favourite policy to be hitherto invariably the first in the field; and the case of Sinope warned Japan what she might expect in such an event. The cases in the present instance were reversed, and Japan had the advantage of striking the first blow.

Now in all this Russia had no ground for complaint. What Japan did she would have herself done, had she been ready. The fact was she was not ready; and hence Japan had all through the war the advantage. But the lesson that Japan then learnt she has not forgotten, and that is, always to be prepared for eventualities. It is difficult to see what grounds for complaint Mr. LOSOFF, and others like him, can find in this. After all, in the interests of peace, it is the wisest course for each nation to adopt, not only in its own interest, but in that of the world at large; and it is not difficult to see that the present unrest in Europe is due far more to the unpreparedness of the western nations holding out a temptation to adventurous spirits, than to any real aggressive intentions on the part of Austria and Germany.

The funeral of the late Mr. See Ewe Boon, compradore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, at Singapore, was attended among others by Messrs. T. S. Baker, manager of the bank, G. C. Murray, R. C. Edwards, H. A. Courtney, A. Boyd, F. H. Peptycross, C. Holland, F. Rickett, H. E. Nixon, C. J. Cookes, A. Gair-Smith, Tso Ping Lung, (Chinese Consul-General), and a large number of Chinese friends. Wreaths were sent by Mr. T. S. Baker, Mr. G. C. Murray and The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Mess.

## FOREIGNERS AND CHINESE MORTGAGES.

(*Daily Press*, July 7th.)

We do not know what are the special circumstances which caused H. E. the VICEROY of CANTON to issue new regulations governing the mortgage of Chinese property to foreign subjects, referred to in the interesting despatch from the Wai-wu-pu, of which our Canton correspondent sends us a translation. This despatch orders the cancellation of the regulations made by the VICEROY, the Wai-wu-pu having (most agreeably apparently) been moved to this action by the FRENCH MINISTER in Peking, who is stated to have pointed out to the Chinese Foreign Office that the matter is one which is already governed by Treaty provisions. When the VICEROY of CANTON in February last gave his instructions on the subject to the Provincial Treasurer he commenced his despatch with a statement to the effect that the Treaties made between China and the Foreign Powers contained no word whatever with respect to the mortgaging of land and houses to Foreigners by Chinese subjects. Nor can we discover in either of the published Treaties any specific reference to the matter, and it is not a little surprising that the Wai-wu-pu's despatch omits to inform the Viceroy in what particular Treaty and in which article the provisions are to be found. As in all Chinese despatches there is so much writing around the subject that the main point is obscured. We understand the position to be this: that the VICEROY objects to land or houses being pledged to foreigners by deed of mortgage, and he objects also to the title deeds of the property being handed over to foreigners as security for debt. What His EXCELLENCE wants is that the debts incurred by foreign merchants shall be secured instead by a document of guarantee, or promissory note in which the properties pledged shall be specified, and the document duly registered at the Registration Bureau. The Treaties impose on the Chinese authorities the obligation to do their utmost to effect the arrest of absconding debtors and enforce the recovery of debts, and the new regulation which the VICEROY put into force before approval had been obtained from the Central Government designed to protect China's sovereign rights beyond the limits of the Foreign Concessions, lent sanction to the validity of the assignments and would conceivably facilitate the recovery of such debts by the Chinese authorities. The distinction between a documentary guarantee given under such conditions and a deed of mortgage seems somewhat subtle, but the intention presumably is to make it clear to the foreign creditor that he cannot foreclose except through the usual Chinese official channels. The only provision in the Treaties which appears to have any bearing on the question is that at the ports opened to foreign trade, foreign subjects shall be allowed to carry on their mercantile pursuits without molestation or restraint, and that they shall enjoy certain specified privileges and advantages including the buying or renting of houses, and leasing land at the open ports. What the FRENCH MINISTER's contention is we cannot quite make out, unless it is that this provision in the Treaty covers a right conferred on the Chinese wherever foreigners are permitted to trade to give a mortgage on land or house property to a foreign subject as security for the debts he incurs in his business relations with the foreigner; but the Wai-wu-pu says that the Treaties do not permit this. What then is

gained by the FRENCH MINISTER's protest against the new regulation? The Wai-wu-pu's objection to the regulation is that it gives to foreigners valuable privileges that they do not possess under the Treaties, for the regulation would enable foreigners "to take up mortgages of leasehold properties all over the interior of China." As the Treaties allow foreign subjects to travel for purposes of trade to all parts of the interior under passports, it is conceivable that in the ordinary course of business, properties have been pledged to the trader as security for debt, and unless the Treaties sanction such assignments outside the Treaty Port limits, it would appear to be clearly to the advantage of the trader to have such security as the VICEROY's regulation was designed to confer upon him. Until, however, a clearer statement of the FRENCH MINISTER's representations in the matter is forthcoming, judgment had better be withheld. If the interests of the foreign trader in the matter are adequately protected, that is all that is needed; and if the Treaties secure this they are to be preferred to the provincial regulation. But if the Treaties do not (and the Wai-wu-pu says they do not), what is the position of the mortgagee now that the provincial regulation is cancelled? Apparently there are a good many of these mortgages in the Province of Kwangtung, and an uneasy feeling must be created in the minds of mortgagees by the despatch sent by the Wai-wu-pu to the VICEROY.

## THE PLEDGE OF THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT.

(*Daily Press*, July 8th)

The precise value of a pledge given by the Imperial Government has recently been the subject of a good deal of discussion in the Legislative Council. It was suggested that His Majesty's present Ministers might possibly place upon a promise made through H. E. the GOVERNOR to the Colony a somewhat different construction to that put upon it by the ordinary plain-speaking, single-minded man. Any one who doubts the possibility of such a contingency should read carefully the speech made by the PRIME MINISTER on the resolution brought forward by Captain CRAIG in the House of Commons on the 26th May, dealing with the definition of the Two-Power Standard. The report in *The Times* of May 27th makes it clear that on November 12th the Prime Minister stated that the Government definitely accepted the Two-Power Standard as meaning "a preponderance of 10 per cent. over the combined strength in capital ships of the two next strongest Powers whatever they might be and wherever they were situated." Yet on the 26th May he had the official effrontry calmly to say that when he made that definition he did not include America among the Powers. By way of drawing a herring across the track and confusing the issue, he scoffed at the idea of reckoning on China, "even suppose she were minded to have a fleet of six, eight or ten Dreadnoughts," and he ignored altogether Japan's powerful fleet; in fact, he bluntly stated, at the conclusion of his remarks, that when he made his previous definition, when he said "the next two strongest Powers, whatever they might be and whenever they might be situated," he only referred to the Continental States. If a man in private life had resorted to such verbal dishonesty to gain some temporary end, it would be simply said of him that he had lied. But apparently a man may lie officially to any extent and yet maintain the most honoured and honourable position

in British public life; and not only so, but he can thus trap and trick the House of Commons and the nation over the most vital issue that has ever faced the Empire. If the Prime Minister of England, throwing to the winds his private honour, can thus devote his great abilities to deceive by a promise which he knows will be interpreted literally, and then deny having intended to convey the only meaning that the words bear, can it really be wondered at that further doubt should arise here in Hongkong as to the interpretation which may eventually be placed upon the words "substantial contribution"? The ingenuity even of some "larn-pidgin" politician in the Cabinet would probably be sufficient to read a very diminutive meaning into that fair-seeming phrase. More and more does it appear that it was an evil day indeed for Hongkong when the rash promise of a raw political fledgling, trying his prentice hand at Under Secretarial work, dragged this Colony into the slippery game of chicane and chance at present dishonouring all the best traditions of British politics.

We are indeed in a very unsatisfactory predicament at the present time. Not only do we not know what interpretation the Imperial Government will give to the promise to ask Parliament for a "substantial contribution," but we have no guarantee that Parliament when "asked" will consent to grant any compensation whatever; and on this point we cannot improve on the following comment which we find in the "Singapore Free Press":— "The opium question, outside the faddists, is merely a sentimental one at home, that is to say millions would possibly be found ready to vote a resolution condemning opium, but we doubt whether hundreds would support a resolution to grant compensation on account of such condemnation. It would naturally seem absurd to members of Parliament that they should vote away home public money to compensate for any loss of revenue derived by a far off Colony from the opium trade. They would probably say 'Well the Colony has done well out of the business in the past, let it stand the racket now,' and whilst we make no pronouncement on the justice of that attitude, it seems one which most men would adopt who knew as little about the practical side of the opium question, as the ordinary member of Parliament does. In fact the position of the Crown Colonies is much that of the unfortunate people who cry 'God is in Heaven, and the Tsar is far away.' It is only by making outcry before an evil is perpetrated, that Crown Colonies as a rule can hope to avert the threatened evil."

#### THE FOREIGN MIDDLEMAN.

(*Daily Press*, 9th July.)

The cry that trade in China was gradually slipping out of the hands of Europeans into those of the Chinese, which has been heard for so many years past, may now be fairly altered into the statement that this end has been pretty well arrived at; and yet we find that a vast business is still carried on, to the advantage both of Europeans and Chinese. It is but poor consolation to those who have found profitable business steadily going away from their control to be told that, in a broad point of view, the circumstance is not of so great importance to the trade itself as at first would appear. To the foreign merchant it is, of course, of vital importance whether the bulk of the profit goes to him or to the Chinese with whom he deals, and the change which has taken place in this respect is naturally a source of disappointment to those who remember the

days when the Chinese were dependent upon the assistance of Europeans in every transaction in the nature of foreign trade. This was the result partly of the want of knowledge of the ways of conducting foreign trade, which was natural on the part of the Chinese, when foreign commerce was a new thing to them; but partly also from the fact that the officials found themselves constrained to reluctantly give certain facilities to foreign traders which could not be obtained by the Chinese themselves. The latter were subjected to a number of squeezes in one form and another, which it was impossible to place upon the foreign merchant in face of treaty obligations. Such being the case the Chinese naturally called in the aid of the foreign merchant whenever it was possible; and thus a considerable amount of business which, but for these considerations, the Chinese would have conducted themselves, drifted into foreign hands. This has been very much changed of late years, and the Chinaman is now able to transact almost any kind of business without being subject to special exactions, if indeed there is not good reason to believe that he may, in ways not easily comprehensible to the foreign mind, obtain facilities which the foreigner would not have.

Apart, however, from this latter consideration, the natural working of events has tended inevitably to bring about the results which have caused so much disappointment. Those who will command a given trade in the long run are necessarily the persons who are most conversant with its details, and in this respect the Chinaman stands in a far better position than any European competitor. He is able to obtain information as to the wants of any special branch of trade, which are absolutely unattainable by Europeans, or which at best can only be learnt through Chinese sources. On the other hand, what the foreign merchant knows as to home markets, modes of shipping, banking facilities and the like are matters which the Chinese, becoming gradually well acquainted with Europeans and their ways of business, could not fail to become acquainted with, and which, as a matter of fact, many understand as well as if they had been brought up themselves in a European counting-house. Indeed the experience of a large number now for years past has been precisely of this kind. The willing and useful compradores, who have so long assisted Europeans in their business, have not gone about with their eyes shut, and Chinamen's eyes when they are open are, as we all know, pretty sharp. There is thus little connection with the ordinary run of commercial transaction of which a Chinaman does not now know the foreign bearing as well as a European, while he knows its native bearing infinitely better. Given this state of things, it must follow naturally that, other things being equal, the Chinaman is bound to obtain the leading position. The chief point at which, even in the resent day, the foreigner is still able to hold his own is no doubt that of capital, or its equivalent, sound credit; and so long as this is the case foreign commerce will continue to flourish, though the amount of profit to the European is much reduced. In a broad political or politico-economic sense this is a state of matters which may not be considered unsatisfactory. The employment of foreign manufacturers and the export of their goods goes on as before, and we still obtain the commodities that we want from China—indeed, it is possible that there may be

more prospect of the lasting expansion under the present conditions than under those of the past. At the same time the change cannot but be looked upon with some natural regret by those who remember the days when, if the China trade was much less than it is at present, it brought so much better returns to those immediately engaged in it.

#### RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

A little time ago I had some reference to Chinese dentistry and its painful method of painless teeth extraction. I have since learned that there can be no doubt about the painless teeth extractions, but the operation is sometimes uncertain, and so it has been discarded in favour of a more exact science.

There were some remarkable streaks of luck at the Gymkhana on Saturday afternoon. Perhaps it is hardly fair to place Mr Johnstone's record of five successive wins in that category, as he worked hard for his positions, but I know in a certain private sweepstake one man drew the winning number five times in succession while another was lucky enough to win in two cash sweepstakes. Of course there was another side to the picture, but maskee.

The Treasury should do well out of the legislative enactment that from the first of January next receipts for ten dollars and over should carry a five cent stamp. This will affect the men who supply us with our daily requirements, the butchers, the bakers, the provision merchants and the fruiters, for unless they had an extravagant customer or a griffin their bills could scarcely be affected under the existing provision that receipts for \$25 and over should bear a five cent stamp. In any case the consumer pays!

The magisterial desire for enlightenment on the subject of nomenclature was responsible for an amusing little discussion at the Magistracy. Mr. Hazelton thought the name Brazil should be pronounced Bra-zil, but the owner of the name was of a different opinion. From inquiries which I happened to make on the subject I believe that his Worship's theory was the correct one, as the name is undoubtedly Irish, its origin being traced to an Erse word which sounds something like broshael. I cannot guarantee the spelling. As a matter of fact I am only guessing at it myself. My personal knowledge on the subject of the name is limited to what Charley's Aunt told us—it's the place where the nuts come from.

Talk of heaping coals of fire on a man's head! It's nothing to having boiling water poured over his head, as an unfortunate member of a bathing party discovered the other night. When he boarded the launch he went to the stern to have the usual douche of fresh water. An obliging Chinaman picked up a jug and emptied the contents over the bather's head as he stood in position, but the yell he gave and the threatening attitude he immediately assumed towards the obliging Celestial made his companions wonder what had happened. Then it was discovered that the jug which the Chinaman had picked up contained boiling water. It's not an experience to be relished, and I dare say it won't be likely to occur again.

Following the lady with the lovely laces, about whom I had a few words to say last week, I am told that many ladies in the Colony during the past week have been favoured with a visit by a Beauty Specialist, who has a perfect horror of wrinkles on the face of any lady who does not confess to being over sixty. Many a lady, I hear, has had to listen to a gratuitous lecture on her duty to herself and her duty to her husband in respect of that obtrusive wrinkle indicating that "the bloom is off the rye." But very little business has been doing in face massage and pomade at six dollars a bottle.

A man plays many parts in life. Shakespeare tells us that his acts are seven ages, but Shakespeare lived a long time ago and times have changed since then. If you ask a Colonial civil servant how many parts a man plays in life

he will probably say seven times seven. He would probably say too that his parts are more often tragic than comic, whatever the public may say on the subject. I am moved to these reflections by the announcement that the accomplished gentleman who has been acting during the last twelve months as Inspector of Schools has been promoted to be Head of the Sanitary Department! while Mr. Irving is to be "Director of Education" the title "Inspector of Schools" being abolished. Looking up Mr. Irving's record I see that in his time he has been collector of land revenue, protector of Chinese, and warden of mines in the Straits Settlements, and acting Registrar-General in Hongkong. It does not seem the sort of training one would expect a Director of Education to have had—but there, if every boy in America may aspire to be President one day, why shouldn't every cadet in the Hongkong Civil Service aspire to be Governor, Chief Justice, Colonial Secretary or Attorney-General?

\* \* \*

From what I hear the cat show is not a long way off, and sports are getting ready to enjoy an afternoon's ratting. This may be anticipating a good deal, but there seems to be some ground for it if the statement in the Press is to be accepted that the ratting abilities of the cats on exhibition are to be tested. When we remember that we are advised by the Sanitary Department to keep cats so as to reduce the number of rats and consequently the risk of plague, it is only to be expected that some regard should be paid to the rat catching abilities of the felines, because if cats are no use in that direction there seems to be little object in keeping them. It reminds me of the story of the King, who, when he was Prince of Wales, was visiting Doncaster. In the course of a walk he came across a collier who, although not apparently particularly well off, had quite a number of dogs around him. The Prince asked the man why he didn't sell his dogs and keep pigs, and received the withering reply, "Why, how could a fella go rattin' with pigs?"

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It is also on report that the tabbies on the Peak do not view the proposed ratting tests with favour.

RODERICK RANDOM.

#### HONGKONG.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to recognise Mr. S. Swart as Vice-Consul for Sweden at Hongkong.

The Hongkong Government is now advertising for tenders for the opium monopoly under the new conditions which come into force next March.

At the Magistracy on July 6th Mr. F. A. Hazeland ordered that a native should receive \$10 compensation because a Sanitary Board dust cart ran over one of his feet.

Mr. W. S. Bailey has been appointed a surveyor of boilers of unlicensed steamships under 60 tons burden, during the absence on leave of Mr. E. O. Murphy.

Col. F. H. Haynes, who will be remembered as the officer in charge of the Army Pay Department at Hongkong a few years ago, has become the senior officer of the Army Pay Department at the War Office.

A Chinese lady, residing at the Hotel China, attempted to commit suicide on July 4 by throwing herself from the verandah of the second floor of the building. She was immediately removed to hospital, but it is not expected that she will recover. The reason for the rash act is stated to be a lovers' quarrel.

Two passengers on the steamer *Kinsar* were arrested for having a quantity of opium in their possession. One was an assistant magistrate from the north, but his dignity was saved by the other taking upon himself the blame and declaring that the opium was his. He had to pay a fine of \$90.

On July 7th the new Portuguese gunboat *Macao* was launched at the Kowloon Docks, Miss Rocadas, daughter of the Governor of Macao, through the indisposition of her mother, performing the christening ceremony. The lady was subsequently presented with a gold chain bracelet as a souvenir of the occasion, and congratulatory speeches followed.

Bro. Stephen, who has been connected with St Joseph's College, Hongkong, for 12 years and who has recently returned from a trip to Europe, will leave for Singapore by the English mail to-day.

Acting under instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, his Excellency the Governor has directed that the title of "Inspector of Schools" shall be abolished, and that it shall be replaced by that of "Director of Education."

The Gazette confirms the appointment of Mr. F. A. Hazeland as First Police Magistrate, and of Mr. J. R. Wood as Second Police Magistrate, of Mr. J. H. Kemp to act as Registrar of the Supreme Court and Registrar of Companies; of Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe to act as Head of the Sanitary Department; and of Mr. R. O. Hutchison to act as Assistant Registrar-General.

Two natives appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on July 6 on a charge of burgling the "boys" quarters at Messrs. Siemssen and Co. and stealing \$84 worth of goods. The first defendant was arrested while endeavouring to pawn a watch, and on his information the second man was arrested. After hearing the evidence his Worship discharged the latter, but sentenced the first man to six weeks' hard labour and six hours' stocks.

The result of the proceedings against Mr. C. F. Dixon, solicitor, is that he is suspended from practising in the Supreme Court of Hongkong for three years. The order will not be recorded until his appeal to the Privy Council against the findings of the Court have been heard. The text of the judgments delivered by Sir Francis Piggott, Chief Justice, and Mr. Justice Gompertz, Puisne Judge, will be found elsewhere.

Lieut.-Col. H. N. Dumbleton, R.E., who shortly completes the required service and will be promoted to brevet-colonel, joined the "Scientific Corps" from Woolwich nearly 32 years ago, and in addition to being for over five years chief instructor of submarine mining, was four years inspector of submarine mining defences at the War Office. He served throughout the Nile expedition, 1884-5, receiving the medal with clasp and bronze star.

The exceptionally dry season we have had is naturally indicated in the water return. On the 1st of July last year we had nearly four months' supply in the reservoirs; this year there is about half that quantity. At Kowloon there is only a little more than a month's supply, whereas last year the storage on July 1st was sufficient for nearly six months.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on July 7th a rattan splitter from West Point was charged with cutting and wounding a fellow workman. It appears that from wordy strife a quarrel of a serious nature arose, the complainant striking the defendant over the head with a stool, and the latter retaliating by using a knife with considerable effect, while he was backed by other workmen. Both complainant and defendant had to be removed to hospital. After hearing the evidence his Worship sentenced the defendant to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

The evening Bathing Party is such a popular institution in Hongkong during the summer months that it may be said the whole Colony will appreciate the solicitude shown by the Hon. Mr. Murray Stewart in the Legislative Council on July 8 for the preservation of the privilege—or may we not say right?—enjoyed by the public to resort to the waters of Stonecutters Island for an occasional swim. A Bill was under consideration restricting the approach of boats and other craft to within one hundred yards of the foreshore and the thought occurred to Mr. Stewart that this might interfere with the constantly exercised right of the public to bathe in that vicinity. It is satisfactory to observe that assurances were given that no denial of this pleasure is contemplated. The places suitable for bathing which can be reached by steam launch in half-an-hour from Blake Pier are now so few that the public interests in them need to be jealously preserved, just as much as we need to preserve the recreation grounds of the Colony from encroachment.

## HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on July 8th in the Council Chamber.

The following were present:—

HIS EXCELLENCE THE GOVERNOR, Sir FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

Hon. COLONEL DARLING, R.E. (Acting G.O.C.).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Sir HENRY BERKELEY, K.C. (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. C. M. I. MESSEE (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. P. N. H. JONES (Acting Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY (Capt. Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, K.C., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. W. J. GEESON

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Mr. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

#### MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

#### FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minute No. 30, and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

#### FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 9) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

#### RAILWAYS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an ordinance to regulate the construction and management of railways. In doing so he said Honourable members are aware that a railway of which great things are hoped for the benefit of the Colony is being constructed between Kowloon and the border of the Colony to connect with a railway from thence to Canton. The object of this ordinance is to authorise the construction of that railway and to provide for its administration and management generally.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

#### On clause 5,

Hon. Mr. GEESON asked—What does "railway administration" mean?

HIS EXCELLENCE—It is among the definitions in the initial clause.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It means persons who have the conduct of affairs.

#### On clause 55,

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE asked—Is there any clause compelling the Railway Company to put fences along this railway? It says "If a fence is provided."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It is no offence trespassing on the railway unless it is fenced.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—In England companies are compelled to fence their railways.

HIS EXCELLENCE—If they trespass on the line and it is not fenced, there is no offence.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—If there is not a fence there is no fine.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—No. No fence, no fine.

After the schedule had been read,

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE said There does not seem to be, Sir, any provision against the prevention of fire caused by sparks from engines. In England railways are compelled to have appliances fitted to an engine to prevent sparks coming up.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It does not come in a bill of this kind dealing with the construction and maintenance of the railway.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—Sparks from engines are likely to cause grass fires in the winter.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—That question can come under the regulations of the railway.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—Grass fires in winter are liable to be caused by sparks. The engines at home are fitted with appliances to prevent this.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The matter will come under clause 32 "management and work of railways." It is a matter of management.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—There is a law to compel people to do what the railway want, but nothing to compel the railway.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—We can add that to the regulations.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—But the railway is not compelled to. A private railway would be compelled to take all precautions.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—There is no need to put it in the bill.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—I move that a clause be inserted.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Submit a clause. You needn't do it to-day, though.

The bill was left in committee, and Council resumed.

#### STONECUTTERS' ISLAND AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an ordinance to amend The Stonecutters' Island Ordinance 1889. In doing so he said—The object of this bill is to prescribe a limited distance within which junks and other craft may make fast or anchor. The island has now been handed over to the military authorities.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Council then went into committee to consider the Bill.

On clause 3,

Hon. Mr. STEWART—The object of the bill is I suppose to prevent anyone landing on the island who is not entitled to and who might be an undesirable. I take it there will be no objection to bathing parties going nearer shore than 100 yards in full day light, the military being there to see what they are doing. I understand that, owing to the sweep of the tide, if a launch lies out more than 100 yards from the shore it is inconvenient to people who are not strong swimmers, and a hardship would be entailed on a considerable number of people who cannot get away early enough to bathe elsewhere, but who have just time to get as far as Stonecutters. I should have thought that if some words were inserted such as "after dark" or "from eight in the evening till six in the morning" the case would be met.

The GENERAL OFFICER-COMMANDING—It is not intended to apply to bathing parties. The power is desired by the Officer Commanding to enable him to deal with the sampan people who come round there, and foul the fort and land and steal wood after dark. We had great difficulty in keeping them off the island, and the power desired is to enable the military to deal with the large number of people who swarm round there. It will be used with discretion. We don't want to prevent anyone bathing. As a matter of fact this will be rather to the advantage of bathers, as the sampan people come there just where parties want to bathe and throw rubbish overboard.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It is a wise power for the military to have.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—Yes, so long as it is understood by the public that there is no objection to their bathing within 100 yards from the shore.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Your object will be attained by having called attention to the matter.

HIS EXCELLENCE—Do I understand there will be objection to anybody bathing there in the day time?

The GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING—Absolutely none. It is only to prevent sampan people coming there. Nobody would be so narrow-minded as all that.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—It is perfectly clear is it not, if you use the words "native craft?"

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Yes. Will the words "junks or sampans" suit you?

Hon. Mr. STEWART—There might be an undesirable steam launch. If the assurance of the General Officer Commanding is mingled, I think the object I had in view will be fulfilled.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It will appear in Hansard.

On Council resuming, the bill was read a third time, and became law.

#### COMPANIES (LOCAL REGISTERS) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Companies (Local Registers) Ordinance, 1907. In doing so he said—The object of this ordinance is to facilitate the working of the Companies (Local Registers) Ordinance by enabling the Registrar of Companies to entertain an application without the necessity of referring it to the Governor-in-Council. The bill provides, while giving the Registrar discretion, that he shall be subject to any instructions he may receive from the Government. The amendment, it is believed, will be found to be in the interests of the public.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Council then resolved itself into a committee of the Council to consider the bill clause by clause.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the following words be added: "A fee of \$10 shall be paid to the Registrar for an authorisation under this section."

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—Does this affect the Shanghai companies chiefly?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—All companies outside the Colony that want to keep registers, it will be a convenience to them, but entails a good deal of extra work.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—Is \$10 enough, Sir?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I should have said \$100.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—Is it payable once a year?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Yes.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—I move that we make it \$100.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—I think \$100 is too much. If Shanghai people think we are discriminating against them, it will have bad results. A lot of the companies are very small, and some are private. I should think that \$25 was quite sufficient, and move as an amendment that that amount be substituted.

On the amendment being put to the meeting it was lost by ten votes to two.

The motion was then put and carried by the same number of votes, the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and the Hon. Mr. Murray Stewart dissenting.

Council then resumed, and it was reported that the bill had passed through the committee stages with slight amendments.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—As it is an advantage to the public and a general convenience that the bill should become law as soon as possible, I move that it be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART—I object.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Then I do not press it.

The third reading of the bill was deferred.

#### INTERPRETATION (FURTHER AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an ordinance to amend the Interpretation Amendment Ordinance, 1908. In doing so he said—This bill has become necessary because of a mistake in the Ordinance we desire to amend. But for the preamble it would be difficult to give any particular meaning to the Ordinance as it was passed.

Council then resolved itself into committee to deal with the bill clause by clause.

On resuming, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the bill had passed through committee without amendment, and moved that it be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the bill was read a third time and passed.

#### STAMP ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled an ordinance to amend the Stamp Ordinance, 1907, as amended by The Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance, 1902.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the bill was read a third time and passed.

#### PATENTS ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I move that this bill be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of Council.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

HIS EXCELLENCE—Council will adjourn until Thursday next.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following vote was passed:

#### CHARITABLE SERVICES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Five hundred Dollars (\$500) in aid of the vote, Charitable Services, Other Charitable Allowances.

The CHAIRMAN.—I am sorry to say we have had so many calls upon us for the first six months of the year, that we have practically spent the amount voted, and we ask you to vote another \$500 for the next six months.

#### SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on July 6 at the Board Room. Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe presided, and there were present Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General), Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. Lau Chiuak, Mr. Ho Kom Tong, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. Pearce (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. W. Bowen Rowlands (Secretary).

#### WELCOMING THE NEW PRESIDENT.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Mr. President, before we proceed to the regular business this afternoon I hope you will allow me to congratulate you upon your appointment, and also welcome you most sincerely on behalf of the unofficials as our new president. You will understand that in the past unofficial members have been constrained on occasion to criticise the Government, and the action of the Department, in certain matters relating to Sanitary affairs. As the millennium is not yet, we will have to do the same again. Should occasions for criticism arise, you will of course understand that any criticisms are entirely without the purple element, and that all officials are, no more than unofficials, working for one end—the general good of the Colony. Of that I feel sure, although I am only authorised to speak for the unofficial members. (Hear, hear.)

The PRESIDENT—Gentlemen, I must thank you very much for the way you have received the remarks made by Mr. Hewett. I noticed that on the paper with the letter stating I had been appointed, there were no dissentient minutes. I may say with regard to the remarks which have just been made, that I know I can reckon upon the co-operation of members of this Board in carrying out the task which I know to be an enormous one. I am quite satisfied that any action on my part you will understand is done with the very best intentions. It may be that I will make mistakes, and I am sure that my acts in the Department will be criticised. I know I will have your co-operation, and I hope your criticism will be accompanied by advice, on which advice I shall to a great extent rely in order to make the performance of my duty successful, knowing as I do that members are not only prominent citizens of the Colony, but many of them have distinguished themselves elsewhere. I thank you very much for the kind reception to this, my inaugural meeting. (Applause.)

#### PROPOSED CEMETERY FOR BUDDHISTS.

The following letter from Government relative to the question of opening a cemetery for Buddhists was read:

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
29th June, 1909.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 15th of last April I am directed to state for the information of the Board that H.E. the Governor has under consideration the question of opening a cemetery for Buddhists. The Director of Public Works has estimated that to prepare for this purpose an area in the Sookunpo valley capable of containing 1,000 graves would cost approximately \$12,000 and that some additional expenditure would be required for a path or road to the site. His Excellency hopes to provide for this expenditure in next year's budget, but in the meantime it is proposed to set apart and dedicate a portion of the Colonial Cemetery for Christians and in

hat portion Buddhist or other non-Christian burial rites will be prohibited. As, however, the practice of their religious rites was guaranteed to all nations and creeds by the proclamation of the 1st February, 1841, and as Buddhists have at the present time no place except the Colonial Cemetery in which to bury their dead, His Excellency considers that it would be unwise to interfere with their rites in the remote part of the cemetery in which they are practised and which it is not proposed to include in the Christian cemetery.

In these circumstances His Excellency will be glad if the Board will for the present suspend action under the byelaw prohibiting the burning of joss sticks and firing of crackers in the Colonial Cemetery.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. M. THOMSON,  
Colonial Secretary.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—I consider that as burial grounds for Chinese Buddhists are already provided elsewhere it is only necessary to prepare an area capable of containing 500 graves and consequently at a greatly reduced estimate to that proposed, I estimate that such a cemetery as I propose will be sufficient for 20 years. The objection to the burning of joss sticks was raised by the owners of Christian graves in the same sections as the practice objected to was carried on. There is not so much objection to those rites if they are carried on in a remote part of the cemetery.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—The operation of the byelaw should be suspended pending the provision of a suitable site for Buddhists of any nationality.

On Mr. HEWETT—I agree with the proposal of the Government.

Mr. HO KOM TONG—I am sorry in this matter of the provision of separate burial grounds for others than those professing the Christian religion, I have to join issue with Mr. Shelton Hooper. In his minute he writes of "Chinese Buddhists." Chinese following the Buddhist faith in the Colony are greatly in the minority as compared with those who belong to the Confucian following. Mr. interpretation of the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 29th of June last is that the proposed cemetery is not intended to be restricted to Chinese burials alone, but makes provision also for those Buddhists who are not of Chinese nationality, e.g., the Japanese, who are not yet provided for elsewhere. Were Mr. Hooper's recommendation to be adopted the Japanese, who are growing in number from year to year, will have good ground for complaint under the terms of the proclamation cited in the Colonial Secretary's letter. Until such time as the proposed Buddhist cemetery can be made ready, I concur in the proposal to hold in abeyance the operation of the prohibitive byelaw with which, though passed, I am opposed in the principle of its spirit.

The PRESIDENT moved that action under clause 12 which prohibits the burning of joss sticks be suspended.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded.

Mr. HOOPER pointed out that the letter dealt with two distinct matters, and it might be better to deal with the first portion first.

The motion was put and carried.

Mr. HOOPER said that in connection with His Excellency's suggestion that a new cemetery should be provided for elsewhere, that proposition was only carrying out the resolution which he submitted to the Board in March last. He only suggested in his minute a smaller cemetery having regard to the finances of the Colony. It was proposed that the new cemetery should have an area for 1,000 graves, and the estimated cost was \$12,000. Considering that it would be used by only the Japanese Buddhists in this Colony, and that the average death rate during the past five years was 21.8, he thought it would be sufficient if a cemetery capable of containing 500 graves was provided. This would last twenty years. That would not preclude the Board from enlarging the cemetery at any time if the Japanese population, or the Buddhist population, increased. He thought it was the question of the initial expenditure that should be laid before the Government. He would not like to divide the Board on it, and he

asked that his minute be forwarded to the Government, together with his remarks.

Mr. L U CHU PAK thought that a cemetery set aside for Buddhists should not be set aside for Japanese Buddhists only. The Buddhists of other nationalities should be allowed to bury there, and he did not agree with Mr. Hooper that a smaller cemetery than that suggested would meet the requirements. At present there were a large number of Chinese Buddhists in Hongkong, and he did not see why they should not be allowed to bury their dead there if they wished.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT said that they were all agreed, when it came to a question of burying the dead, which was one of the most important items of our Colonial Government, and one which affected the sentiments of everybody irrespective of nationality or creed, that there was no question of nationality. He was perfectly sure that the Government of Hongkong would make no distinction between Chinese, Japanese or European Buddhists. The question was the provision of a burial ground for Buddhists, which he presumed also included Confucianists and Taoists. They were dealing with the question of the burial of that religious sect without any regard to nationality, and he was sure that was the intention of the Hongkong Government.

The PRESIDENT asked if members would prefer any recommendation to go to the Government.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL said they might express a hope that the laying out of the cemetery would not be deferred until there were funds to provide a cemetery for a thousand graves. As Mr. Hooper had pointed out, the cemetery to be provided for those they had in view would last for twenty years, and he moved that the Government be asked to immediately proceed with the preparation of a cemetery capable of containing one hundred graves, to be extended as funds permitted.

Mr. HOOPER seconded, and took the opportunity of replying to Mr. Hewett, when he said that they should leave nationality out of the question with regard to the cemetery. He would agree with him were it not for the fact we had separate byelaws for cemeteries for Chinese, and it would be illegal, as far as he understood, for Japanese to be buried in these cemeteries. Therefore, nationality had been recognised in the past. There were twenty-seven cemeteries in the Colony, and if those twenty were restricted to Chinese, and he did not see where the Chinese had any grievance when it was proposed that the Government should set aside a cemetery for people of the same religion but another nationality.

The resolution was carried.

#### THE BALANCE OF OPINION.

Correspondence was dealt with relative to the erection of an iron staircase in the yard of No. 98, Queen's Road Central.

Mr. A. SHELTON HOOPER—Apparently more attention is paid to the opinion of the Director of Public Works than to the opinion of the Board, when eight voted for it being granted and only the Director of Public Works against it.

Dr. FITZWILLIAMS minuted—I beg to amend Mr. Shelton Hooper's statement that eight voted for this. One member voted against it, and I know that two refrained from voting at all, one of them after asking if this was not the case in which the Medical Officer of Health had reported in an adverse manner.

Mr. HOOPER asked for the minutes to be produced seeing that he had been challenged. He had the minutes before him when he wrote this.

The PRESIDENT said he understood the minute made no mention of the matter. Dr. Fitzwilliams was unfortunately absent, but the speaker understood that he did not challenge the correctness of the minutes at the time.

Mr. HOOPER—He may have erred, but I took the minutes as they were when confirmed and sent to the Government.

The PRESIDENT, while the secretary was producing the minutes, said the matter referred to an application by Messrs. Palmer and Turner for permission to erect an iron staircase at 98, Queen's Road Central. This application in the first place was referred to the building authority and refused. Then it was brought before the Board again and agreed at a meeting held on

the 8th June to recommend the Governor-in-Council to grant the application. Then it went up for approval of the Governor-in-Council but was refused.

The SECRETARY produced the minutes, showing that six voted for the motion and three against it, while the Vice-President did not vote.

Mr. HOOPER—I would like you, sir, to state from the chair that I was absolutely correct according to the official records.

The PRESIDENT—I understand that what happened was that some hands went up and some did not. It is rather difficult for the Secretary always to be able to see. Perhaps we might be a little more particular in the future in recording votes. As the minutes stand Mr. Hooper is correct.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Not exactly, sir. No doubt Mr. Hooper was correct, but it may be from those minutes that some person did not vote.

Mr. HOOPER—Quite recently we have had on minutes "Mr. So and So did not vote."

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—That is only when you ask for it.

Mr. HOOPER—I don't want to waste the time of the Board on the question of votes, but having been challenged I simply want to point out that I got my information from the official record, as I wished to be correct.

The matter then dropped.

#### SHAUKIWAN SCAVENGING.

Complaints against the Shaukiwan scavenging contractor were submitted. It was stated that nullahs, sewer traps and gullies were not properly cleansed and rubbish had not been collected for months.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT minuted that this was a very serious state of affairs and that the contractor should be severely dealt with.

The Secretary was requested to call the contractor before the Board, but only the subcontractor put in an appearance.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT said the Board could not deal with this man.

The PRESIDENT admitted this, but said they could fine the contractor in his absence if he did not like to appear to defend himself.

Mr. HOOPER—Has he been asked to attend?

Sanitary Inspector Collett said he had not been instructed to bring him.

The matter was postponed until next meeting, when the contractor will be called upon to attend in person.

#### DETERMINED ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

A Chinese gentleman recently returned from the Philippines made a determined attempt to commit suicide on Sunday. He was found in the evening by a contractor on a vacant piece of ground between Circular Street and Des Voeux Road West with his throat cut. As soon as the contractor found the man he blew a police whistle, which was answered by Constable Clark, and just as the policeman appeared on the scene the would-be suicide, who was weak from loss of blood, made a final effort to complete his task. He succeeded in lifting the razor which was lying on the ground by his side, and was about to draw it across his throat again when his hand was stayed by the constable. The man was immediately removed to hospital, but his recovery is doubtful, as the self-inflicted gashes were very deep ones, and he lost a considerable quantity of blood.

#### AN ORIENTAL CUSTOM.

The hearing of the case in which Gundah Singh was charged with attempting to bribe the Puisne Judge's clerk was continued before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on July 8th, when Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. J. H. Gardiner appeared for the defendant.

His Worship, in delivering his decision, said it was a custom in China, and also in India, for persons to offer small bribes, generally amounts of five, ten or twenty cents. He proposed in this case to inflict a penalty, which he thought would let the Sikhs know that the offering of a bribe was an offence. The defendant would be fined \$100, the alternative being two months' imprisonment.

[July 10, 1909.]

## HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a Monthly Meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, St. George's Building, on Monday, the 28th June, 1909, at 4 p.m.

Present:—Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), Mr. J. R. M. Smith (Vice-chairman), Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. A. Babington, J. W. C. Bonnar, J. W. Bandow, D. R. Law, H. A. Siebs, E. Shellim, H. E. Tomkins, and E. A. M. Williams (Secretary).

### MINUTES.

The Minutes of the last Monthly Meeting of members held on the 17th May, 1909, were confirmed.

### GOVERNMENT NOTE ISSUE.

Reply from Government:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Hongkong, 11th June, 1909.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, I am directed to transmit the enclosed copies of minutes by the Colonial Treasurer dated the 18th ultimo and the 5th instant together with copies of the printed papers in annexed schedule. These documents contain the further information asked for by your Committee.

2. I am to request that the printed papers may be returned to this office in due course.—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,  
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,  
Chamber of Commerce.

- (1) 7 reports on the working of the Currency Note Issue in the Straits Settlements.
- (2) Memorandum on Proposed Government Note Issue for Southern Nigeria.
- (3) The Currency Note Ordinance 1899, Straits Settlements.

Enclosures were laid on the table.  
*Copy.*

Hon. Colonial Secretary.

My proposals are simply that:—

1. Government should issue notes in exchange for currency at par and undertake to exchange currency for notes on presentation.

2. That one half at least of the amount deposited be kept in the Colony and that one half be sold and invested in gold securities at home.

3. That some time be allowed to elapse before investing up to the ultimate full proportion in order that such proportion may be ascertained by experience.

4. That minor details be settled when the Secretary of State has approved the principle.

A. M. THOMSON,  
Colonial Treasurer.  
18/5/09.

*Copy.*

### NOTES RE PROPOSED GOVERNMENT ISSUE.

1. The issue of paper for legal tender excluding sub. coin.

2. The redemption of such paper on presentation in legal tender.

3. The storage of the coin tendered for notes with the proviso that as soon as the limit of safety is ascertained by practice a portion of the coin will be invested in gold securities.

4. It is understood that the banks in the Colony will accept the notes and that therefore any one wanting notes for coin or vice versa will be accommodated at the various banks always with the proviso that the Treasury is ready to do so in case of trouble.

5. The question of the Government having its own treasury is a subsidiary one. Possibly it may be necessary to build a treasury if no one of the banks will hire a vault or undertake the issue and redemption of the notes.

6. It is estimated that the revenue would be benefited to the extent of the difference of 1 per cent. note duty and 3½ per cent. interest on the investment of half of the bullion deposits.

7. On present data of excess issues of notes by the Hongkong and Shanghai and the Chartered Banks it is estimated that at least \$8,000,000 Government Notes would be required by the Community; leaving out of account the fact that notes are so scarce at the present day as to make a difference of 0½ per cent. between them and the legal tender.

Taking the above figures:—  
\$8,000,000 @ 1 per cent. Stamp Duty—\$80,000.  
\$4,00,000 @ 3½ per cent. interest—\$140,000.

Difference in favour of revenue, \$60,000. Expenses are estimated at \$15,000 p.a., leaving a net increase of revenue of \$45,000.

It should, however, be distinctly understood that the suggestion for the issue of Government Notes was made not on account of the necessity of increasing revenue, but almost solely on account of the fact that for some years there has been a difference between Bank Notes and legal tender amounting to as much as 3½ per cent. and also that Government is responsible for the furnishing of a convenient currency.

A. M. THOMSON,  
Colonial Treasurer.

The receipt of the above information was duly acknowledged by the Secretary of the Chamber.

The following draft letter to the Government was read and approved:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,  
28th June, 1909.

Sir,—In reply to the enquiry in your letter of 11th June, 1909 (No. 8641/1908), I am now directed to state that my Committee see no objections to a Government Note Issue provided such an issue does not mean a loss of revenue to the Colony or an increased expenditure without a consequent and equivalent increase of revenue, and provided the conditions of the issue are such as to in no way hamper the trade of the Colony.

With regard to the Memorandum of the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer dated 5th June, 1909, and enclosed in your letter above referred to, my Committee are of opinion, in the case of a Government Note Issue, that the issue and redemption of the notes should be undertaken by the Government, that Government Officials should be in charge thereof, and that the coin and/or securities held against the circulation should remain in the hands and be entirely under the control of the Government. It would therefore be necessary for the Government to arrange for a Department to issue and redeem the notes and to have a treasury of its own.

The Colony occupies the position of a financial centre for the Southern Provinces of the Empire of China, and large amounts in hard dollars are therefore liable to be imported or exported suddenly. Shipments of several lacs of dollars at one time are of frequent occurrence, and it is on record that only some three years ago one steamer brought \$24 lacs, while more recently \$15 lacs were exported in one steamer. It may consequently be inferred that considerable variation will take place in the amount of notes in circulation: in fact the difference between the highest and lowest average monthly amount of bank notes in circulation, according to the figures published in the *Government Gazette*, was—

In 1905	... ... ...	\$6,028,415
In 1906	... ... ...	7,739,884
In 1907	... ... ...	4,160,429
In 1908	... ... ...	3,140,568
In 1909 (January to May)	... ... ...	6,994,747

My Committee are therefore of opinion that the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer's estimate of expenses is too low.

Regarding the proposal to invest a proportion of the dollars in Gold Securities, my Committee consider that a reserve fund should be established to cover the exchange risk so that the coin and investments held against the issue will at all times be sufficient to redeem it at par and that no call on the revenues of the Colony will ever be necessary.

I am also directed to call your attention to the possibility of the adoption by China of a uniform currency and to point out that in the event of this taking place it may be found advisable to change the currency of this Colony which might involve the recoinage or disposal of the dollars in reserve. My Committee think that before incurring the responsibilities attaching to a note issue the Government should give careful consideration to this contingency.

I return herewith the enclosures as requested.—I have, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,  
Secretary.

Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson,  
Colonial Secretary,

### SEVENTH CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

Letter from London Chamber:—

Oxford Court, Cannon Street,  
London, E.C., 30th April, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to remind you that the Seventh Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire opens at Sydney, N.S.W., on 14th September next and is to be followed by a short tour of two or three weeks' duration, during which most of the principal centres of the Commonwealth will be visited. As you are aware, the Governor-General of Australia, the Right Hon. the Earl of Dudley, G.C.M., G.C.V.O., has accepted the Honorary Presidency of the Congress, and the Federal Government will officially receive the delegates.

The letters already received from several of the most important Chambers in New Zealand have now been supplemented by an invitation from Sir Joseph Ward, Prime Minister of the Dominion, and a semi-official visit to New Zealand will probably follow the Australian Tour.

You will understand that it is important that the delegates from this side should be both numerous and influential. Up to the present time only a small proportion of the total number of Chambers have definitely notified me on the subject of delegates, and I would therefore urge upon all who have not done so the desirability of calling, if necessary, special meetings and communicating with me upon this head without further delay, and, if necessary, by cable. Owing to the distance involved, the final Programme of Resolutions and List of Delegates must, of course, be circulated relatively earlier than has been the case heretofore—not later, indeed, than the middle of June.

It has been found impracticable to arrange a main party to proceed to Australia, but those delegates who do not wish to travel alone should acquaint me with the itinerary they are desirous of following, and I will endeavour to place them in communication with others who propose following similar routes. I should also be glad to receive particulars where delegates will be accompanied by ladies.

You will notice that spaces have been left in the second draft programme enclosed herewith, for the names of the movers of resolutions, and I would ask you, should your Chamber have forwarded any resolutions, to let me hear at once in order that the names may, as far as possible, be included. I also enclose a preliminary list of Delegates.

The definite programme of entertainments to be offered to delegates immediately following the Congress has not yet reached me, but it now appears that they will terminate a week earlier than was originally anticipated, i.e., about 10th October next.

Tickets of identification will shortly be issued to delegates, and I should be glad, therefore, to be kept informed of any change of address.—I am, &c.,

KENRIC B. MURRAY,  
Secretary.

The Secretary,  
Chamber of Commerce.

Enclosures:—

Second Draft Programme of Resolutions,  
List of Delegates nominated to date.

Enclosures were laid on the table.

A reply was sent that the matters referred to in the letter will receive the early attention of the Committee.

### REVISION OF THE CUSTOMS TARIFF OF JAPAN.

Letter from International Tariff Revision Committee of the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade:—

Yokohama, 7th May, 1909.

SIR,—We have the honour to inform you that a Committee, selected from the foreign business firms resident in Japan, has been formed under the above title. Its object is to watch the interests of the foreign traders in general and of resident strangers, in connection with the revision of the Customs Tariff of Japan, consequent upon the expiry of the Present Treaties in August, 1911, notice of which has already been officially given by the Japanese Authorities.

This committee has been inaugurated and formed under the auspices of the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, and is therefore representative of the largest business interests of the

country, and of quite an international character. It counts among its members British, German, American, French, Swiss, Austrian, Dutch, Australian, Swedish, Norwegian, Russian and other representatives.

The present Tariff is, in the case of many Articles of Import, of a highly protective nature, and there is every indication that national sentiment favours an increase in the import duties, tending especially towards shutting out many foreign articles and substituting for them articles of native make. In the circumstances it appears to be of vital importance that foreigners interested in the import trade of Japan, including doubtless several members of your Chamber, should use all the means at their disposal to represent in the proper quarters their own interests, and those of the countries to which they belong. With this object in view we would venture to suggest:

(1) That your Chamber should put before the Foreign Office of your Country or other proper authority your ideas and suggestions regarding any change in the Tariff between your Country and Japan.

That you should send us a short statement showing the principal articles in respect of which you consider an increase in the present scale of duty would be injurious to the trade in general, together with any reasons and arguments which you may be able to advance in support of your position, and any other particulars which you may consider to be useful.

We would respectfully request that your communications should, if convenient to you, be written in the English language or have an English translation attached, as this language is most widely understood and used by all foreigners here in their intercourse with each other and the Japanese.

There is every reason to believe that the Japanese will push their views by all diplomatic and peaceful means. It is therefore our desire that the support given to foreign trade interests here, shall be as prompt and effective as possible, and we request you to assist us by equipping your Home Government with the most accurate information enabling them to support to the fullest extent their Country's trade with Japan, and by any other means in your power to co-operate with us to the same end. — We are, &c.,

For The International Tariff  
Revision Committee,  
E. C. DAVIS,  
Chairman.

The President,  
The Chamber of Commerce,  
Hongkong.

It was decided to circulate the foregoing letter among the Members of the Chamber with the idea that those whose interests were likely to be affected by the New Tariff might take the steps for their protection therein mentioned.

It was considered that individual action for the conservation of individual interests was advisable, but the Chamber would take the matter up and represent the views of members if it were so desired.

**ARBITRATION AND SURVEYS ON PIECE GOODS.**  
Letter from Bradford Chamber:—

Exchange, Bradford,

11th May, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—This Chamber has had under consideration the important question of claims made by buyers in the Eastern markets in respect of alleged inferiority in the quality of Worsted, Woollen and Cotton goods delivered, and the results of the Arbitrations and settlements of these claims. A considerable amount of dissatisfaction has arisen amongst exporters of these goods in this district on account of their having had to submit to adverse decisions and to make allowances and pay the costs of Arbitrations. Several exporters have declared emphatically that the goods in respect of which they have had to bear a serious loss have been fully up to the required quality and that therefore they have had to suffer through some error of judgment on the part of some Arbitrator or Surveyor.

This Chamber has no doubt that having regard to the difficult circumstances attending such cases the greatest care is taken to secure the services of the most competent Arbitrators

or Surveyors obtainable to ensure a fair and just decision. I am desired, however, to suggest to you the advisability of the adoption in your district of a system similar to that in force in Bombay. I am to say that in the view of this Chamber the assimilation of the practice in your district to that prevailing in Bombay would be likely to give greater confidence and to ensure the continuance of the good relations existing between buyers in the East and exporters in this country.

I am, therefore, desired to express the hope that this suggestion will receive your careful consideration.—I am, &c.,

F. ANDERSON,  
Secretary,

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce,  
Hongkong.

A letter from the Government was received covering a copy of a letter similar to the foregoing which has been sent to the Government by the Bradford Chamber and on which this Chamber's views were requested.

It was decided to write the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to obtain particulars of the system in vogue at that Chamber in reference to Arbitrations and Surveys on Piece Goods.

#### DRAFT TRADE MARKS BILL.

Letter from Government:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Hongkong, 14th June, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed to transmit for the consideration of your Committee the enclosed draft of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Trade Marks and to inquire whether your Committee concurs in the provisions of the Bill as drafted. — I am, &c.,

C. CLEMENTI,  
for Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,  
Chamber of Commerce.

The enclosure was laid on the table.

The Chairman suggested the appointment of a Sub-Committee to consider the Draft Bill, and it was agreed that the Sub-Committee be composed of the following gentlemen:—Mr. E. Shellim, Mr. A. Babington, and Mr. H. A. Siebs.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

The following Companies were unanimously elected Members of the Chamber:—Messrs. the China and Manila S.S. Co., Ltd., Messrs. Cruz, Basto & Co., and Messrs. the Vacuum Oil Co..

#### JAPAN-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

The following letter was received from the Government:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
28th June, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to refer the enclosed copy of a letter from the Commissioner General of the Japan British Exhibition for the consideration of your Committee and to inquire whether in the opinion of your Committee this Colony should participate in the exhibition.—I am, &c.,

A. M. THOMSON,  
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,  
Chamber of Commerce.

#### Enclosures.

28th May, 1909.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to inform you that an arrangement has been concluded between His Excellency Mr. Kato, Ambassador of Japan at the Court of St. James, on behalf of the Emperor and Government of that Empire and the Authorities of the "White City" for holding an Exhibition at Shepherd's Bush exclusively confined to the Arts, Manufactures and Products and Products of the Japanese and British Empires, commencing on May 3rd, 1910, and remaining open for about six months.

This will be the first occasion upon which Japan has brought before the people of the United Kingdom, and the Western World generally, the vast resources of that Empire, and the Government of His Imperial Majesty have made arrangements, financial and administrative for making their display thoroughly large and representative.

There are many grave reasons, political and commercial, closely affecting the future happiness

and prosperity of this nation why the participation of the Colonies and Dependencies of this Empire should be upon a scale of equal magnitude and comprehensiveness.

It is absolutely necessary that the people of Japan should be bound by the tie of mutually profitable commerce and enlightened self-interest with the various British Colonies, and that our allies should realize the extent to which their wants, in the shape of either necessities or luxuries, can be supplied from the Colonies of the British Empire, the more especially as Japan is by far nearer to many of them than to any other country inhabited by persons of European origin.

For this reason, and for many others, I venture to express a hope that Hongkong will participate in the Japan-British Exhibition upon a scale worthy of the occasion and its wealth and dignity.

I trust shortly to be in a position to forward you the prospectus and Regulations for the British Section, which will be drawn up with a full realization of the dignity and grandeur of an Exhibition, which will be for many reasons the most important ever held in this country.—I am, &c.,

#### COMMISSIONER-GENERAL.

It was decided to reply that the Committee did not consider sufficient support would be forthcoming to justify an appeal being made to the public, and that unless the Government were prepared to find such funds as might be required, the matter should be permitted to drop.

The following reply was sent to the Government:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,  
1st July, 1909.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo (No. 4259/1909) enclosing a copy of a letter from the Commissioner General of the Japan British Exhibition which it is proposed to hold in London in 1910, and inquiring whether or not, in the opinion of my Committee, this Colony should participate in the Exhibition.

My Committee gave this matter their consideration at a Monthly Meeting held on the 28th ultimo, and I am now directed to state that they do not consider that sufficient support would be forthcoming to justify an appeal being made to the public, and that unless the Government are prepared to find such funds as may be required the matter should be permitted to drop.

I am to ask you to be good enough to thank His Excellency the Governor for referring this matter to them. — I have, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,  
Secretary.

#### QUARANTINE IMPOSED ON VESSELS

##### ARRIVING FROM HONGKONG.

The following letter was addressed to the Government:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,  
1st July, 1909.

SIR,—I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to place the following before His Excellency the Governor.

Of the 120 cases of Bubonic Plague reported to date for the year 1909, 83 occurred in the Kowloon Peninsula and a great many of these in districts far removed from the Shipping. Six cases were imported from outside the Colony. It is recognised that the plague season practically ends in the early part of July and there were only five cases for the week ending June 26th in the whole Colony.

There seems no adequate reason, therefore, for the imposition of quarantine restrictions by the Port Authorities of Singapore on vessels arriving from Hongkong.

My Committee suggest, with great respect, that His Excellency the Governor should cable requesting that the restrictions, which in their opinion are unnecessarily hampering Shipping, be removed.—I am, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,  
Secretary.

Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson,

Colonial Secretary.

The following letter was addressed to the Government:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,

3rd July, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed by my Committee to address you on the subject of the Quarantine

Restrictions imposed by Shanghai on vessels arriving from Hongkong. For the same reasons as were advanced in my letter of the 1st instant in reference to the Quarantine Restrictions imposed by Singapore on this Colony, my Committee consider that no adequate reason exists for the action of the Port Authorities of Shanghai.

My Committee, in respectfully calling the attention of His Excellency the Governor to this hardship, feel assured that prompt action would result in the removal of the Restrictions which are unnecessarily hampering the Shipping of the Port, and would therefore beg that His Excellency the Governor will be good enough to communicate with His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai on this subject.—I have, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,  
Secretary.

Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson,  
Colonial Secretary.

The following reply was received from the Government:

Colonial Secretary's Office.  
8th July, 1909.

SIR.—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letters of 1st and 3rd instant on the subject of the imposition of quarantine restrictions at Shanghai and Singapore on arrivals from Hongkong, and to state that telegraphic representations have been made to the authorities at both ports in the sense desired in your letters.—I am, &c.,

C. CLEMENTI,  
for Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,  
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

#### DISCHARGED AND RE-ARRESTED.

On the 29th ultimo a native appeared before Mr. J. R. Wood on the charge of being in unlawful possession of a fox trap. Constable Taylor, when patrolling a road at Kennedytown, observed the man carrying the trap. The native noticed the policeman at the same time, dropped the trap, and walked on. He was arrested, and placed before the Court on the charge stated, but his Worship discharged the defendant.

On Sunday the same man was arrested for trespassing in the Tung Wah Infectious Disease Hospital, and the police discovered that the defendant had stolen the fox trap from this institution. The prisoner was charged with being a rogue and vagabond; with being inside the mortuary with intent to commit a felony, and with stealing the fox trap. Mr. J. R. Wood found the prisoner guilty and sentenced him to six weeks' imprisonment on the first charge, three months on the second; and three months and four hours' stocks on the third, the sentences to be consecutive.

#### THE ESCAPED PRISONER.

The "Jack Shepherd" of Hongkong has not yet been recaptured, but a little more light has been thrown on the story of his escape. We understand that he succeeded in scaling the jail wall with the aid of his blanket, which he tore into strips to make a rope. He left his coat behind, departing from the prison in a pair of jail trousers. Once outside the wall, it appears that he immediately made for the higher levels, where he decided to steal some clothing. The first that offered was some ladies' underwear, which he appropriated and proceeded on his way, secreting his jail trousers in the bush near Robinson Road. In the western district he attempted to steal a suit of clothing, but was arrested by an Indian constable. The constable, however, was induced to hand his prisoner over to another Chinese, being persuaded that this man was a lukong. It now appears that he was a friend of the prisoner, for the latter has again escaped, and being such a slippery customer, it is doubtful if he will give the police another opportunity of arresting him. There were thirteen previous convictions against the man, six of which were for returning from banishment.

#### THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST A SOLICITOR.

#### THE FINDING OF THE COURT.

#### MR. DIXON SUSPENDED FOR THREE YEARS.

The lengthy proceedings before the Chief Justice and the Puisne Judge in connection with the application of Messrs. Hastings and Dixon to have Mr. C. F. Dixon struck off the roll of solicitors practising in this colony for unprofessional conduct were concluded on July 5 when both Judges delivered judgment.

The Chief Justice said—Messrs. Hastings and Dixon, solicitors practising in this court, bring to the notice of the court certain alleged acts committed by their managing clerk, Mr. Clive Fletcher Dixon, also a solicitor admitted to practice in this court, which it is suggested necessitate the exercise of disciplinary measures by this court. The nature of these charges will appear from the judgment. The one which I have to mention is the alleged embezzling of sums paid by clients to Mr. Dixon on behalf of the firm for services rendered by him as managing clerk of the firm. The first point which we had to consider was whether this allegation, involving as it did a criminal charge, should not have been tried before a criminal court. Mr. Dixon, by his counsel, strongly contended that this was the proper procedure and said that he was willing and desirous of standing his trial. Messrs. Hastings declined to prosecute and maintained that this court was bound to entertain their application quite irrespective of the fact that a criminal charge was involved. My own opinion very strongly leaned towards the trial of the question before the assizes, but after hearing the very able arguments of counsel on both sides we came to the conclusion that the disciplinary jurisdiction of the court exists altogether independently of there being concurrent jurisdiction in the criminal courts—that it may be exercised in the face of an acquittal and that it might even be declined in the face of a conviction. The point really involved is, I think, the claim to have a charge of this sort tried before a jury. As to this I have no doubt that the proceedings for striking a solicitor off the roll must in this colony come before the court; neither the old English procedure by way of inquiry before the Masters nor the new English procedure of enquiry before a committee of the Incorporated Law Society reported in either case to the court would be possible. The motion comes before the court as normally constituted; and therefore if the court should think fit either on account of the complexity of the question involved or of the doubt which the facts raised to call to its aid a jury, it would be within its power in doing so. The question is of great moment to both parties—of the gravest moment to Mr. Dixon. I thought it right therefore to ask my learned brother to sit with me so that the hearing of the motion has been before the Full Court. We intimated, however, that if we should in the end find a jury necessary we should cause one to be empanelled. We have not found it necessary, for the question in issue has proved to be simpler than at one time seemed likely. I desire in the first place to make two remarks of a general nature. The action which Messrs. Hastings took was altogether unavoidable, was forced upon them by the nature of the information received. It is difficult to put oneself in the position of a firm of solicitors in extensive practice suddenly informed that their managing clerk, in whom implicit trust has been placed, who has been entrusted with the conduct of heavy and important cases, who has apparently conducted them with great success and to the great satisfaction of the clients, has been guilty of appropriating money paid by the clients to him on account of the firm. I shall be compelled to criticise what they in fact did in one or two instances, but this criticism must be tempered by the recognition of the very difficult and most painful position in which they were placed. So too Mr. Dixon (if he is innocent of the charges brought against him as he alleges he is) was placed in a most distressing and painful position, and I would willingly if it were possible find in this fact some palliation for some

things that he has done. He has been defended with zeal and devotion by his professional advisers, and if the finding of this court could have been stayed off by advocacy and handling of his case it would have been achieved most legitimately. I have now to make one further general remark as to the nature of these proceedings, because my finding depends in great measure upon it. The motion was made by Messrs. Hastings because there is no representative body of solicitors incorporated as is the Incorporated Law Society in England, who could assume the duty of putting the matter before us officially and the proceedings inevitably took the ultimate form of an issue between Messrs. Hastings and Mr. Dixon. But the dispute between them covers a wide area, involves many subordinate issues, none of which is before us. Even the issue which is apparently before the court—whether Messrs. Hastings have proved the charge or whether Mr. Dixon has disproved the charge is not before us precisely in this form because, as I shall presently point out, some important questions of onus would seem to be involved, and were in fact urged, which I do not think are really raised. The sole question is whether the case of reprehensible conduct brought before the court is satisfactorily and without doubt proved. I now come to the specific charges. The Goulab charge was at our suggestion properly withdrawn. It was at best one man's word against another, and I must confess I should not have liked such a charge pressed on the evidence available. With regard to the Wan Hi charge, I am bound to criticise, subject to what I have already said, the action taken in connection with this man. In the first place I do not approve of the police being made use of in private matters. The police are public officers and should not be used, nor should they lend themselves to being used as private detectives if only for this reason that it must weaken their authority and efficacy in the discharge of their public duties. Of course, there was in this case a criminal charge involved, but I have been informed throughout these proceedings that Messrs. Hastings always declined to prosecute. And even if the police had contemplated taking up the case with regard to Wan Hi, looking on him as a witness was not regular. I also object altogether to the police surveillance to which the man was subjected, and I am not surprised that he complained. Secondly, a statement was taken from this witness on oath before Mr. Wilkinson acting in his capacity as notary public in the presence of Inspector Hanson. I think this was irregular, but we were told that it is a practice which has long prevailed in the Colony for notaries to take such statements on oath. Obviously, therefore, what was done in this case was perfectly *bona fide*. Our procedure does not recognise any mode for manufacturing evidence—I use the word in no offensive sense—except in a special procedure for perpetuating testimony or binding people down to statements other than is provided by the Statutory Declarations Act, introduced into this colony by Ordinance 8 of 1893, and this did not profess to be a statutory declaration. A notary's powers in connection with the administration of oaths and irrespective of the duties of his office are these: He may take statutory declarations, but these declarations must be made voluntarily; the declarant must go to the notary and ask him to take his declaration. And it must be in the form prescribed by the Act, which this was not. Secondly, under order 38, rule 6, examinations, affidavits, declarations and other matters may be sworn before a notary in matters pending before the High Court. Here was at the time this man's statement was made no matter pending before this Court. The fact that the statement was not intended to be used is immaterial. The objections to such a proceeding as was adopted in this case are clear. The man who had made such a statement knows he has made it and must in giving his evidence be conscious of it, and that he might be confronted with it; yet it is a statement on oath to which the penalty for perjury does not attach. It is therefore for the purposes of the Court valueless and can only avail the person who has so obtained it. But the law, as I have said, does not sanction such a proceeding. Oaths can only be administered under the sanction of the law.

Further statements on oath are public statements and they must be available to both parties. The effect of these proceedings and the weight to be attached to this man's evidence in this question was whether he had paid the \$20 alleged to have been due from him under the agreement and said to have been made by him with Mr. Dixon to pay \$50 for costs of which he had paid \$30 on account. Now the moment this man realises that his was the question involved, when it was put to him with police accompaniment it would not be unnatural for him to say that he had paid it. In due course a perception might dawn on him that the real question he was being asked about was whether he had made such an agreement and that he was not charged with not having paid money said to be due by him. But even if he had not made such an agreement he would almost inevitably stick to his original statement, induced by facts which had inevitably clouded his clear appreciation of the real question in issue. As the case stood after his examination was concluded, I could not have found the charge proved. I, however, put certain questions to him in order to see whether he did in fact appreciate the issue. His answers were intelligent, appeared to be truthful and seemed to clear away that cloud; but putting the question to myself afterwards: Am I quite confident that the cloud which must have been in his mind at first was absolutely cleared away? I cannot answer it affirmatively with such complete satisfaction to myself as to enable me to say "yes," and so hold that the charge is proved—perhaps "not proven"; but we do not know that form of finding in England, and I am therefore compelled to find that the charge has not been fully and satisfactorily established on the evidence standing by itself and apart from the alleged confession, to which I shall come presently. I pass to the Wong case and here I find very considerable difficulty in coming to a conclusion. The question that troubles me is this: Is the case more substantial than one man's word against another? And there are two subordinate matters also that trouble me. I am far from wishing to attribute to Wong Hui Tong any intention of wilfully deceiving the Court, but this point I cannot pretend to appreciate—how an action of the most important character affecting the very existence of a firm of high standing in Canton, involving enormous costs should have been financed entirely by one partner, as he himself says, out of his personal resources. He produced a private book which we could not admit as evidence, but upon which he was cross-examined, and he said this book showed all these payments to Messrs Hastings on account of costs. But some of these payments were apparently made by an agent in Hongkong, though in many cases they were brought by Mr. Wong himself. Was this agent Wong's private agent or the agent of the firm? He himself said that there were no entries in the books of the firm. Putting the sleeping partners out of the question, there were other active partners—on Wong's evidence the firm does not appear to have been charged with any of the costs of this heavy action. I find the whole thing exceedingly difficult—not to believe, but to understand. But there is this further difficulty: Everything that took place in Messrs. Hastings' office between Mr. Wong Hui Tong and Mr. Dixon was through the medium of an interpreter. Everything that Mr. Wong says took place might be perfectly true and yet never have reached or been understood by Mr. Dixon. There is only one piece of his evidence so far as I can see which directly associates Mr. Dixon with the payment of the moneys whether for loans or the \$50 for costs which it is alleged was embezzled. Mr. Wong says he paid the money into Mr. Dixon's hands. But it is with regard to this case that what I said at the beginning of this judgment is so important. The question is not whether if the case had been between Messrs. Hastings and Mr. Dixon which would be entitled to a verdict, but whether the case against Mr. Dixon, if it had been presented dispassionately by a public official, has been proved. It is not a case as to who ought to have produced Hung, the dismissed interpreter, as a witness, but whether this case can be proved without him, whether we can exercise our disciplinary powers in the absence of the person who can

alone give the evidence which would bring home the offence with which Mr. Dixon stands charged as a solicitor. It is said he will not come because he would incriminate himself. That is irrelevant to this issue. He might be dead and yet the difficulty would be just the same. I agree that possibly the facts connected with the charges, if well founded, might have come to Mr. Hastings' knowledge without Hung. But Hung is, as the case stands, at the bottom of the whole thing and I ask myself this question—Can this charge be proved without him as the case stands? It will be said—Look at the difficulties! Is it fair to impose this obligation on Messrs. Hastings? In this case, "Yes." The question would raise entirely different considerations if Messrs. Hastings had merely dismissed Mr. Dixon and he had brought an action for wrongful dismissal. We cannot treat this application as if it were such an action, and, even if we were to act upon Mr. Tam's evidence, I am bound to say that the negotiations between Mr. Tam and Hung about getting Hung back into the office, in which almost a promise was made in Mr. Hastings' name to take him back, seem to throw a haze over it which I am certainly not going to attempt to dispel except to say this—it is really unnecessary to say—that such inducements or half promises, or whatever they may be called, as were made by Tam to Hung were not made with Mr. John Hastings' authority, but were the direct opposite of his intentions expressed or implied. I think in the circumstances that this is again a case in which I should have adopted the Scotch formula "not proven," but as I cannot do so; as in Wan Hi's case, I am bound to find the case is not established, subject to what I have to say on the subject of the alleged confession. To this alleged confession I now turn. Now here again we are confronted with a difficulty. A confession if proved cannot be pressed further than it actually went. The confession was that only small sums had been taken—and in police court cases. This would cover Wan Hi's case, but not Wong's case. But there is a far more serious matter to which I called the attention of the learned counsel engaged. At the opening of the case Mr. Calthrop very wisely asked for the charges against his client to be formulated, and they were formulated. But this was for the sake of giving precision to the case. It could not possibly be said to be, as is the object of charges formulated against a civil servant, in order to inform Mr. Dixon of what he was charged with; that was contained in the affidavits filed on the application for the rule, and the question is whether we can ignore the fact that there is an allegation made in these affidavits that Mr. Dixon had confessed to having appropriated small sums belonging to the firm. I do not think we can look at it as merely a piece of corroborative evidence but as itself embodying a charge which is brought to the knowledge of the court. I think, therefore, that we are bound to inquire whether the confession was made as alleged. Now, in considering this I am moved by no consideration other than that of ascertaining which of two persons, both solicitors of this court, is speaking the truth. Mr. Hastings asserts that Mr. Dixon made a definite confession. Mr. Dixon absolutely denies it. Nothing is more difficult in such circumstances to decide such a question. Human memory is so fallible that it is quite a common occurrence for an honourable man in reporting a conversation to put into the mouth of the person he has been talking with words which he himself used. If Mr. Dixon had alleged that there was a mistake in Mr. Hastings' version of what he said; that there was a misunderstanding; we should perhaps have found more difficulty in arriving at the truth. But he has taken up the position that Mr. Hastings has deliberately perjured himself before the Court, has wilfully perverted what he said, has put into his mouth things that he never said, that he has done this out of sheer malevolence, and with the ulterior design conceived some time since of getting rid of him, that it is all part of a deeply-laid scheme devised in order to rid himself of a managing clerk to whom many material benefits were in process of time soon to become due, in order to economise the money that these benefits would cost the firm. To this Mr. Dixon has deliberately pledged himself. To this question, put by Mr. Potter, What motive he attributed to Mr. Hastings in making the statement relating to the confession, Mr. Dixon would have been entitled to say he spoke to facts alone and was not obliged to search for motive, but he deliberately answered the question and attributed the motives as I have above specified them. By this he must stand or fall. I disbelieve the existence of the motives which he has attributed to Mr. John Hastings, not because he is the senior partner of a leading firm of solicitors and Mr. Dixon only his managing clerk, but because I would not believe this of any one in the absence of evidence leading most inevitably to this conclusion. The court does not assume motive, malevolent or other, merely because a witness chooses to allege it or even pledge his allegation by an oath. If the court is to find motive it must be the necessary induction from evidence laid before it, and not from reckless unsubstantiated statements. The only trace of such evidence is what I think was the somewhat undue haste which Mr. Hastings displayed in his letter of the 30th of March suspending Mr. Dixon and attributing delay to Mr. Dixon and his legal advisers in regard to the deed of arbitration which had been submitted to them. I think in this he was in the wrong, but it certainly comes well within what I said at first with regard to Mr. Hastings' conduct, namely, that it must be judged not by ordinary standards, but by honest endeavour to put oneself in the difficult position in which he stood. But of other evidence to support this allegation there is absolutely none. Mr. Hastings' views as to what has been called "Mr. Dixon's course of life" were candidly stated by him in the box. It was a legitimate view and not affected in the least by what is euphemistically termed the "narrow mind," but every detail which has been specified of the relationship, official and social, between Mr. Hastings and Mr. Dixon from the beginning down to the early part of this year pointed to the opposite conclusion, and therefore looking at the question as one merely of evidence I find this malicious motive on the part of Mr. Hastings not substantiated in any way, and therefore unproved. In this judgment I have seemed perhaps to subject Mr. Hastings' action to criticism and to have left untouched Mr. Dixon's. I have done this deliberately, because that seemed to be material to the great question whether these charges were proved and because I have been more than anxious that every point which could be argued in favour of Mr. Dixon should have all possible weight attached to it. But that must not be taken to imply that I approve of all Mr. Dixon's actions. Some of them which are referred to in the judgment of my learned brother seem to be very deserving of criticism. I have not forgotten the fact and have endeavoured to give it its legitimate weight, but Mr. Dixon has shaped his public conduct by that of an honest man—that is to say, he offered to stand a public trial at the assizes. But on the whole case and having in conjunction with my learned brother given it the most anxious consideration, I can come to no other conclusion but this: that the confession was made by Mr. Dixon as Mr. Hastings alleges, and that this corroborates the evidence given by Wan Hi, the facts of that case being covered by the terms of the confession, but that it does not corroborate the Wong Hui Tung charge. Mr. Dixon is therefore suspended from practising in this Court for a space of three years. Mr. Justice Gompertz said:—This is a motion for an order that the name of Clive Fletcher Dixon, a solicitor of this court, be removed from the roll of the court, for gross misconduct in his capacity as solicitor. The facts are briefly as follows:—Mr. Dixon, who was admitted a solicitor in England in 1899, joined the firm of Hastings and Hastings then John Hastings in Hongkong, in 1904, on an agreement for four years' service as an assistant on a salary of £325 a year. He received various increments in salary and commission not stipulated for in his agreement during the course of his service. On the 15th April, 1907, before the expiry of his first agreement, a further agreement was entered into for five years under which Mr. Dixon was to receive a higher rate in dollars with increments in commission and salary and also to receive at the expiration of

the term a partnership in the business. It is quite clear that the firm found Mr. Dixon a valuable man and the relations between them appeared to have been such as might have been expected between an enlightened employer and an able and trustworthy assistant. On the 2nd of February of this year Tam Wing Kwong, a clerk in the office of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, being on a visit to Hung Kam Ning, an interpreter who had recently quitted the service of the firm, received from him certain information which he communicated to Mr. John Hastings. Mr. Hastings saw Hung in his office on the next day, and on successive occasions, when the latter informed him that Mr. Dixon had been in the habit of paying into the office part only of monies paid by clients on account of costs, retaining the balance himself and giving to him, Hung, part of the money. Though Mr. Hastings pressed him for instances, he gave none, saying he was unable to do so. As a result of what he heard Mr. Hastings instituted inquiries which resulted in certain persons being discovered who have given evidence before us on which the present charges are based. On the 25th of March Mr. Hastings called Mr. Dixon into his room in the afternoon and told him what Mr. Hung Kam Ning had reported and that there was evidence on which a criminal prosecution might be brought, and that he did not wish to prosecute, and advising Mr. Dixon in effect to slip away quietly and without scandal. Mr. Hastings says that Mr. Dixon confessed to having taken money, but in small sums only, and asked to be given another chance. This Mr. Dixon denies, and says that he admitted having taken presents, but entirely denied any misappropriation. On March 31st Mr. Hastings wrote to Mr. Dixon stating that he must leave the office, as it was impossible for the firm to keep him any longer, and enclosing for signature an agreement cancelling the agreement for service. Receiving no reply Mr. Hastings wrote a further note on the 2nd of April requesting that the cancellation agreement might be signed and returned to him. On the same day Messrs. Ewens and Harston wrote a letter on behalf of Mr. Dixon denying that Mr. Dixon admitted having taken money and insisting on his rights under the agreement of service, and finally suggesting a meeting between Mr. Harston and Mr. Hastings. It was proposed that the matter should be the subject of an arbitration before the Chief Justice, and negotiations continued for some time, but eventually failing the present proceedings were brought. I will deal shortly with the specific charges which are before us. The first two are based on the evidence of Wong Hui Tung, that he lent to Mr. Dixon at the latter's request during the process of a suit which Mr. Dixon was conducting on behalf of the firm \$75 in various sums on four different dates. The second is to the effect that he on the 18th or 19th of July paid Mr. Dixon \$500 for costs to the firm, which money Mr. Dixon has retained in his own hands. I will say at once that Wong Hui Tung gave his evidence in a clear and apparently straightforward manner. He expressed his regret at having to testify against Mr. Dixon, whom he said he regarded with feelings of gratitude for the able manner in which he had conducted his case. It was suggested that the witness was not to be believed, as he had reasons for wishing to oblige Mr. Hastings, inasmuch as he hoped for a remission of part of his bill of costs, and as there was still a balance of about \$300 due to him outstanding in the hands of the firm. Now the witness was a man in a good position, the managing partner of an important silk business in Canton, and though the suggestion must, of course, be given its proper weight, a vague expectation of this sort not of course alleged to be based on any promise explicit or implicit on the part of Mr. Hastings, seems hardly a sufficient reason why he should be willing to come down from Canton and commit the grossest and most cold-blooded perjury against an innocent man. I must say that I felt extremely puzzled by Wong Hui Tung's statement that the loans to Mr. Dixon were not entered in the books of the firm but only in his own memorandum book, and that the payments of them fell not on all the partners but on three men only, of whom he was one. This admission

is one which might have considerable significance and I cannot help wishing that we had had a fuller explanation of it. However, this is a matter of detail which I may or may not have to go into later on. Now the charges are of course very serious ones: borrowing money under the circumstances alleged with no subsequent repayment, is serious misconduct in a managing clerk - misappropriating money paid for costs is simply embezzlement. Is there any corroboration of Wong Hui Tung's evidence? The only other person alleged to have been present at these transactions is the interpreter Hung Tam Hing, who has not been called. The witness Tam Wing Kwong stated that he believed Hung to have left the Colony. Canton and Macao seems to be the natural refuge of Chinese in Hongkong who have reasons of their own for not wishing to appear before a court, and I suppose that Hung who, if he had appeared, would have been asked if and why he made statements to Mr. Hastings which he afterwards denied to Mr. Dixon, and if it was true or untrue that he had participated with Mr. Dixon in embezzling the money of the firm, had excellent motives for keeping out of the way. I do not know that his evidence would have been of much use to either party had he actually come before us, but it is certainly very regrettable that the Court has not had an opportunity of seeing him in the box. I come next to the alleged confession. Can this be treated as corroboration of Wong Hui Tung's evidence? In my opinion it cannot. Without going any further into that confession at present, it is clear that a confession of having misappropriated money is no corroboration of a charge of improperly borrowing from a client. On the other hand an admission of misappropriating small sums only is an implicit denial of a charge of misappropriating \$50, which is a much larger amount. The other matter suggested as corroboration of the charge of misappropriation, was the evidence of Mr. Kent, cashier in Messrs. Hastings and Hastings. This witness stated that when the interim account was asked for he gave the client a copy of the ledger account upon the express orders of Mr. Dixon. Now the ledger account was obviously quite useless to Wong Hui Tung and he could learn nothing from it. It was suggested that Mr. Dixon purposely had this misleading statement supplied to the client in order to prevent the latter from seeing that he had not been credited with the \$50. Now Mr. Kent gave his evidence in a perfectly straightforward manner, and he is probably an extremely competent cashier, but his knowledge of English did not seem to be very great and he struck me in the witness-box as somewhat "puzzle-headed." Mr. Dixon denies that he ever told Kent to give a copy of the ledger account, and I am not at all clear myself that though Mr. Kent believed himself to be speaking the truth, the mistake was not really his own. In that event of course the suggested corroboration fails. Lastly, there is the date, July 23, 1908, when the \$500 was alleged to have been paid to Mr. Dixon. About that time it appeared from Mr. Dixon's statement in cross-examination that he had to find money for the payment of a passage, and the inference suggested is that he would be therefore short of funds and less likely to be able to resist temptation. But I do not think the corroboration to be sufficiently direct - it does not go far enough. Whether Mr. Dixon was not "hard up" in the ordinary meaning of these words in 1908 sufficiently appears from the fact that he had then \$4,000 out on mortgage. If he had to find money then in July he was not driven to dishonesty. He had merely to call in the money out on mortgage. All the suggested grounds of corroboration therefore fail. I must then reject the charges based on Wong Hui Tung's evidence. I do not for a moment suggest that he has committed perjury, but charges of this sort must be fully substantiated, and if this cannot be done they must be dismissed. I come now to the third charge, which rests on the evidence of Wong Hui - that he paid Mr. Dixon \$20 for balance of costs. It is admitted that the firm was never credited with this amount. Mr. Dixon states that on the 5th of January of this year he was retained by Wong Hui to defend a friend of the latter's in the Police Court. It was agreed that \$50 should be paid for costs with a proviso for further payments in the event of the hearing lasting over one day. The sum of \$20 was paid at once, and entered in the rough cash book by Mr. Dixon as a payment on account. The case never came to a hearing, the charge eventually after one adjournment being withdrawn by the police. Mr. Dixon says that the balance of the agreed costs of \$20 was never demanded by him or paid by Wong Hui. It appears that Mr. Dixon had full authority to make arrangements as to costs, and, if he thought fit, to remit the balance due of a sum agreed to be paid. Now Wong Hui states that having agreed for a sum of \$50 he paid \$30 immediately and then, when the case was over he paid the balance of \$20 to Mr. Dixon in the presence of Tam Wing Kwong on the 13th or 14th of January at between three or four p.m. He says that Mr. Dixon put the money into a drawer and then went out. Wong Hui asked for a receipt, but was told that it was unnecessary. Nothing turns on the absence of a receipt, for it is admitted that no receipt was given for the \$30. Apparently it frequently happened that no receipt was given on the payment of these small amounts. Wong Hui's evidence is corroborated by that of Tam Wing Kwong, an interpreter of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings' office. He says that he was present when the \$30 and again when the \$20 was paid, and his account of what took place corresponds substantially with that of Wong Hui. Now Wong Hui had been called up by the police in the first instance and had apparently been kept under surveillance up to the time he went into the witness-box. It was suggested, not unnaturally, that he must have thought in the beginning that he was being called to account for the \$20 as for money he had failed to pay and his natural impulse in that event would be to adhere to the statement that he had actually paid it, whether he had in fact done so or not. That is, that he would be afraid to contradict in the witness box the former statements he had made in the charge room. I am anxious to give the suggestion its proper weight. But we have to consider it along with the whole of the facts. The suggestion was to my mind disposed of by the manners of the witness's reply to a question from the Chief Justice. He answered in a perfectly straightforward manner that he was not afraid, and did not believe he was being required to pay again. He said that he knew he had paid the money and understood that the question was what someone else had done with it. I do not expect such frankness of demeanour from a man who knows that he is telling lies. It was further suggested that the witness had been got at by Tam before the police saw him, but there is no evidence of this, and it was absolutely denied by Wong Hui, with whose demeanour I was, as I have said, very favourably impressed. As regards Tam Wing Kwong himself, he admitted that he would have liked to get Hung back into the office and that he had spoken to Mr. Hastings on the subject. He further admitted that he knew that Mr. Dixon wished to bring in another man, Lo, as interpreter, and that if Lo had come into the office he, Tam, would have resigned. It was suggested that this admission showed that Tam was an unreliable witness. The suggestion in fact comes to this, that Tam was so anxious to keep Lo out of the office that he has concocted a criminal conspiracy, supported by his own and other people's perjury to ruin Mr. Dixon, a trusted assistant who was shortly to become a partner in the firm. The motive assigned seems to me inadequate for such a course. The game was really not worth the candle. The witness was of course severely cross-examined. I watched his demeanour closely throughout and I must say that he seemed to me to be telling the truth. Is there any other evidence that can be treated as corroborative of this charge? This brings me to the confession alleged to have been made to Mr. Hastings, and here I need add very little to the remarks of the learned Chief Justice, with which I entirely agree. At an interview of this sort both parties would naturally be somewhat agitated, and the most scrupulous man might easily, after the lapse of some weeks, be mistaken as to the precise words used. But it is quite clear that Mr. Hastings when he wrote to his brother on the following day had no doubt at all that Mr.

Dixon had admitted the misappropriation of money. This letter was called for by Mr. Dixon's counsel on his cross-examination of Mr. Hastings. Again, in his letter of March 31 he categorically repeated the admissions he says were made to him on the 26th of that month. When he saw Mr. Dixon again after receiving the letter from Messrs. Ewens and Harston he taxed him with these admissions and asked him what he meant by denying them. So Mr. Hastings' attitude was at any rate consistent throughout. I cannot doubt that he has accurately reported what he believed at the time to have been said. What then of Mr. Dixon's position? An innocent man who knows that his record is clean finds himself suddenly confronted with an odious plot against his good name. One would expect an indignant denial and a fixed determination to have the matter thrashed out, and to clear his reputation at all costs. We find instead a spontaneous offer to leave the firm, abandoning his rights to a partnership and to the other advantages of his agreement and an undertaking offered not to take away clients of the firm—in return for what? A permission to be allowed to practice on his own account in the Colony. I do not think I am unfair to Mr. Dixon when I say that I should have expected a firmer attitude, in the face of the calumny, from a man of Mr. Dixon's character and ability. Again the foundation of the charges made against Mr. Dixon at the interview was the interpreter Hung, and Hung was the only authority then named by Mr. Hastings. If the charges were false, then Hung was a liar and a very despicable scoundrel. Yet this man was apparently the first person with whom Mr. Dixon put himself into communication with and he thought it advisable to have a private interview at his own house before he even took counsel with his solicitor. It is with great regret that I am compelled to the conclusion that there was no mistake and that the confession is established against Mr. Dixon. Once this is accepted it strengthens the charge as to the \$20 which I must regard also as fully established. One matter is the complement of the other. A confession corroborates the charge. The charge illustrates the confession. The confession is of course fully before us—it was embodied in the affidavits; it has been gone into very fully in the evidence and it is a matter of which this Court is bound to take cognizance. We have, then, a painful duty to perform from which it is impossible for us to shrink, and I concur in the opinion of the Chief Justice that Mr. Dixon must be suspended from practising in this Court for a term of three years.

The Chief Justice—We think that Mr. Dixon should be suspended from practising in this court for three years.

Mr. Calthrop—My Lords, I ask you to grant a stay of the order suspending Mr. Dixon until such time as he has been able to send home in order to appeal to the Privy Council.

The Chief Justice—Of course, we should give every possible facility, but I should like to hear what the other side have to say.

Mr. Potter—There is no power to stay an order of the court in a case like this. You have decided that a certain person is not fit to be an officer of the court. Undoubtedly he has the right of appeal, but there has never been a case in which there has been a stay pending appeal.

The Chief Justice—There is the case of Mr. Pollock.

Mr. Potter—The point you have to consider is that having decided that a certain person is not fit to be an officer of the court it would be unfair to the profession to allow him to practise before you.

The Chief Justice—There is the practical difficulty that Mr. Dixon is an articled clerk to Messrs. Hastings.

Mr. Calthrop—My client only asked for a stay of the order suspending him and he will undertake not to practise until he has had an opportunity.

The Puisne Judge—What is the good of the stay?

Mr. Calthrop—It is simply to clear the stigma of his character.

The Chief Justice—The matter must be subject to the usual routine. What would be the practical effect? We have delivered our judgment. If Mr. Dixon does not wish to practise in the colony what advantage will follow by making a formal stay?

Mr. Calthrop—He may have the advantage—The Chief Justice—What occurs to me is this that we might refrain from having it recorded on the rolls.

Mr. Calthrop—That is all we want.

Mr. Potter—I have no objection.

The Chief Justice—In this case we must consider the personal question at an end?

Mr. Potter—Absolutely.

The Chief Justice—The practical question is whether Messrs. Hastings will take him back.

Mr. Calthrop—We don't ask for that.

The Chief Justice—There is the agreement which has been mentioned and which may stand in the way. If you are satisfied with that there will be a suspension of the record of the judgment upon the rolls of the court until such time as with all diligence he has appealed to the Privy Council.

Mr. Potter—As to costs, I submit I am entitled to costs. It is the usual course.

The Chief Justice—Are there any precedents?

Mr. Potter—Yes. If it has been found that the charges are not brought home but if his conduct was such as to justify bringing the action then the defendant is liable for the costs.

Finally it was decided that the Registrar should deal with the question of costs, and the order for costs was suspended on the usual undertaking as to security.

#### THE BEACON HILL TUNNEL DISASTER.

##### DEATH BY MISADVENTURE.

An inquiry was held at the Magistracy on the 5th inst. before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, sitting as coroner, and a jury into the cause of death of Chu Kon Yong, who was killed at the north face of the Beacon Hill tunnel on June 10th.

Dr. W. W. Pearse, medical officer in charge of the mortuary, deposed to examining the body of deceased. He found the cause of death to be syncope due to gaseous poisoning fumes.

Sergeant Floyd stated that all the Chinese witnesses who could have given evidence in this case had since left the works, and he was unable to find them. He was of opinion that they had left the Colony. He had been notified since the action that at the 5 p.m. blast on the 10th the wind was blowing from the south part of the tunnel, carrying smoke and fumes before it to the north face. Deceased was one of a gang of labourers working at the north face at the time. Some of the coolies resumed work after the evening meal, which followed the 5 p.m. blast, but deceased remained in his quarters. He was found there some three hours afterwards, taken to the dispensary, and artificial respiration was applied, but without effect. He was then put in an ambulance for removal to the Tung Wah Hospital, but died on the way. Besides the deceased, two other men who died from the results of the accident were removed to the mortuary.

In reply to a jurymen witness said he believed the other Chinese workmen left the Colony on account of fear.

Mr. W. Waite, superintendent of the Beacon Hill tunnel, deposed that the accident was reported to him about midnight on June 10th. Later he ascertained that all the men were taken out of the tunnel, and those affected were being attended to by Dr. Naida. When witness arrived he found, as he thought, three dead men, but only two were dead, the other succumbing on the way to hospital. Witness thought the accident was caused by the smouldering of some unexploded ammunition, and the air was so bad on the following day that he could not get through the tunnel himself, notwithstanding the fact that there were six compressors working at full pressure. He attributed the foul air in the tunnel to the heavy atmosphere outside. Every care was taken to prevent accidents of any kind in the tunnel.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

#### CONFLAGRATION AT SAMSHUIPO.

##### FORTY BUILDINGS DESTROYED.

Early Tuesday morning a destructive fire broke out in the village of Samshuiipo which has completely demolished some forty buildings, destroyed the stock-in-trade of many merchants and rendered many families homeless.

The fire originated in a grocer's shop in Tai Street, and must have had a strong hold on the building before the police at the village station were summoned, for when Sergeant Angus called out his men and proceeded to the scene of the outbreak the fire was burning fiercely. Other police stations and the Central Fire Station were then notified, and in an exceptionally short time the firemen from the Central, the Yaumati section of the brigade and the fire float were on the scene and hard at work.

But their efforts were of little avail in the narrow streets in the vicinity of the fire, and the firemen were considerably hampered by the inmates of the burning buildings, many of whom it was found difficult to remove until they had recovered most of their goods and chattels. From every available point a strong pressure of water was brought to bear on the flames, but these were fed with wood which burned like tinder, with mattings, blinds and other inflammable materials, and it took many hours of hard fighting, in difficult circumstances, to stay the progress of the fire.

Shortly after the Hongkong fire brigade arrived at Samshuiipo, the fire was at its height, the flames throwing a lurid glare over the village and the surrounding hills, and causing the few who saw the conflagration from a distance to fear that the oil tanks of the Dutch Asiatic Petroleum Co. were ablaze. Fortunately, this was not the case, otherwise there would probably have been little of Samshuiipo standing to-day.

Right through the night the firemen combated the gradually extending conflagration sections of the brigade being in Ching, Fiu Lu and Tai Streets, all of which were in flames, and it was not until nearly one o'clock in the afternoon that the fire was subdued.

The spectator yesterday saw nothing but a heap of smouldering ruins and collapsed buildings, the streets before mentioned being piled high with debris, and the public being kept back by Indian constables on account of the danger from falling walls.

An extraordinary thing in connection with this fire, having regard to the narrowness of the streets, or rather lanes, and to the number of people who must have awakened to find the flames enveloping their rooms, is the fact that not one person is reported missing. The only victims were a number of pigs, and according to the statements of some of the firemen the smell of roast pork was as invigorating as a substantial meal.

The loss caused by this fire is not yet ascertainable, but will no doubt be considerable, as most of the ground floors of the buildings destroyed were shops, each of which carried a fair amount of stock. In addition to this, the loss of property can be placed at a large amount for most of the buildings burned have entirely collapsed. Lieutenant Beckwith, Assistant Superintendent of the Water Police, was in charge of the fire float, while Chief Inspector Baker and Superintendent Lane commanded the fire brigade, the individual members of which deserve great praise for their hours of strenuous labour.

#### ANOTHER FIRE IN WING LOK STREET.

While the Fire Brigade were absent at the Samshuiipo fire, at about four a.m. there was another outbreak in a piece goods shop at No. 61, Winglok Street, the four stories of the building being gutted. The police were called out for this, and with the assistance of some Chinese firemen succeeded in saving the adjoining buildings, although they were unable to save the shop where the fire occurred. The ground floor of this shop carried a stock on which insurance to the extent of \$20,000 had been effected with the Lancashire Insurance Co. The second and third floors were unoccupied, but the fourth floor was used as a family dwelling.

**SUPREME COURT.**

Monday, 5th July.

**IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.****BEFORE THE FULL COURT.****AN UNSUCCESSFUL APPEAL.**

Mr. E. Potter, instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, appeared for the appellants in the appeal against the judgment of Mr. Justice Gompertz in the action between the Po On firm and Chan Kwan Shan in favour of the plaintiff. His contention was that the decision was wrong in fact and in law. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C. instructed by Mr. S. Dickson, represented the respondents.

This was the case in which the plaintiff had a relative who desired to go to America and only got as far as Shanghai, which came before the Court at the beginning of May.

After hearing the evidence their Lordships dismissed the appeal.

Wednesday, 7th July.

**IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.****BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (PUISNE JUDGE).****CLAIM FOR MONEY LENT.**

Hui Ching Kau sued Lam Sze Chiu for \$765, for money paid and lent. There was a counter claim. Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Gardiner appeared for the defendant.

The plaintiff's case was that three sums of money had been lent to the defendant and the remaining sum was lent on a consideration which failed. The defence was that the sums were paid in respect of moneys due for goods sold and delivered not to the plaintiff himself but to the firm in which plaintiff was a partner.

Evidence having been heard, the case was adjourned.

Thursday, 8th July.

**IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.****BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).****A COMPRADORE'S LIABILITIES.**

The case in which S. J. David and Co. were appellants and Chan Ut Chin was respondent was mentioned, the Chief Justice stating that in considering his judgment he had come to a point which he was sorry to say he could not get beyond without the assistance of counsel, a point which he thought had not been fully discussed by counsel in the course of argument, and on which he thought they would need to have further argument. He asked counsel to be present and he had asked short-hand writers to take down what he said because he could not deal exhaustively with the subject in a minute. The point must be considered as if he were in favour of the defendant. Having indicated the point about which he had a difficulty, he added that he did not think it necessary to call Mr. McNeill from Shanghai. The counsel on the other side would be sufficient, though argument would not be heard until what his Lordship had said had been communicated to Mr. McNeill. The Puisne Judge agreed with him that the point should be taken, although he was only speaking for himself.

Counsel intimated having noted the points.

**IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.****BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).****A CINNAMON MERCHANT'S FAILURE.**

Application was made for the discharge of Chan Yue Shan.

The Official Receiver (Mr. Fletcher) said he applied on behalf of the debtor, who had been a cinnamon merchant doing a good business between Annam and Hongkong, and stated in his report that debtors bankruptcy had been his misfortune rather than his fault.

The Chief Justice granted the discharge, to be suspended for a year.

**DISCHARGE SUSPENDED.**

Application was made for the discharge of S. M. E. Allana.

The Official Receiver mentioned that debtor had not kept books. He never had any capital, merely \$1,000 worth of jewelry.

His Lordship—There was something said about extravagant living.

The Official Receiver—Yes, I have reported on that.

His Lordship—You wish to have him discharged?

The Official Receiver—Subject to any observations any creditor may wish to make.

Mr. Hastings, who appeared for the debtor, admitted that it was improper not to have kept books, but suggested that this was due to carelessness and not to a desire to conceal his affairs. As his Lordship had remarked, the debtor had kept no books from the beginning, so that he could not have had any idea of concealing his affairs. It was due to carelessness and perhaps also to inability to keep books. With regard to the sale of his business, about which some remarks were made at the time, it has turned out very well for the creditors, \$10,000 having been obtained for it, much more than would have been got from anybody else.

The Official Receiver—It cost the estate \$2,090 in costs to get that \$10,000.

Mr. Hastings pointed out that if the Official Receiver had sold the business by auction he would not have got \$5,000. The creditors had done very well out of the sale of the business to Mr. Marican, and they had got a fair dividend, something like 26 or 27 per cent.

The Official Receiver asked that the suspension should be for a considerable period.

The Chief Justice—The discharge will be suspended for two years.

The Official Receiver applied that the discharge should be automatic, as the debtor wished to go to India.

The Chief Justice said special leave should be asked for him to go to India, as the debtor was understood to be under the supervision of the court.

Mr. Hastings then applied for special leave, which was granted.

**A QUESTION OF COMPOSITION.**

Re Wong Yu alias Wong Yu Kee, the Official Receiver said this was a question of composition. There was a sum of \$300 in hand, which it was desired should be applied towards the compensation. The debtor was to pay 10 per cent.

The receiving order was discharged and the composition suggested was approved.

**LOOSE BOOKKEEPING.**

Re D. R. Captain, application was made for his discharge.

The Official Receiver remarked that in this case there were practically no books and the system of conducting the business was very loose.

Mr. Hastings, who appeared for the debtor, said that the bankruptcy was due to misfortunes on the part of the debtor, an assistant having embezzled \$3,000, and debtor having employed a man to sell silk lost \$1,500 thereby. In answer to His Lordship, Mr. Hastings said that the debtor had paid too much for the business when he bought it for \$10,000. It was only worth about \$8,000.

The discharge was suspended for a year.

**GAMBLED THE FIRM'S MONEY.**

Re Chau Chan Kit, the Official Receiver applied for the discharge of the interim receiving order which had been made. Mr. P. W. Goldring opposed this, and Mr. R. Harding supported the Official Receiver.

The Official Receiver said the debtor owned a small shop in Des Vœux Road Central but he held a \$1,000 share, which was now worth \$1,500, in the Tung Shan Wing firm, of which he was managing partner. On the 5th June he used the firm's chops to borrow from various banks a sum of \$1,300 for the purpose of commencing a rice importing business, but he got in with some men and gambled away all the money. He had no other debts to speak of. The Official Receiver submitted that the firm was liable for this money. If he were made liable the Official Receiver would demand the debtor's share in the firm.

Mr. Goldring said this was a case where an interim receiving order had been made, and pending an action brought by the firm against the debtor the proceedings in bankruptcy should be stayed. The debtor borrowed the money in the firm's name for the purpose of investing it in a rice business and he got into the hands of some unscrupulous men who swindled him out of it. He took the men to the Police Court, but he was persuaded by his partners to withdraw the charge and then they advised him to go bankrupt.

Mr. Harding said they alleged that he received the money without the knowledge of the other partners.

His Lordship—What are his liabilities?

Mr. Goldring—Simply this \$1,300.

His Lordship—the man borrowed it in the name of the firm. His firm sue him and then he says he is going bankrupt.

Mr. Goldring—My suggestion is that the proceedings in bankruptcy be stayed until this case is finished.

His Lordship—No, no. The receiving order is rescinded.

**NOT ONE PER CENT.**

Re Ko Tsan King, Mr. Atkinson applied on behalf of the debtor for a receiving order. The Official Receiver opposed it.

Mr. Atkinson explained that the debtor was the sole partner in a tinned fruit manufactory.

His Lordship—What are the assets?

Mr. Atkinson—\$7,000.

His Lordship—And the liabilities?

Mr. Atkinson—\$70,000.

The Official Receiver said he opposed the application because there was not sufficient money in the estate to pay the costs of the proceedings. He had an offer of \$500 for the machinery and goodwill of the business, and that was stated to be more than would be realized were it sold by auction.

Mr. Atkinson said the business with goodwill trade marks, labels, etc., was worth \$7,000.

His Lordship—Whose valuation is that?

Mr. Atkinson—The petitioning creditor's.

His Lordship—Is he ready to give it?

Mr. Atkinson—I don't think so, my Lord.

His Lordship—Is the dividend likely to be ten per cent?

The Official Receiver—Not one per cent.

The application was adjourned to allow an investigation to be made.

**COMPOSITION ARRANGED.**

Re C. M. Barradas, the Official Receiver said he appeared on behalf of the debtor, who owed some \$1,300 or \$1,400, and he hoped to be able to arrange a composition. His whole salary had been taken under a garnishee order and there was danger that it would be taken again next month.

The matter was left with the Official Receiver.

**IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.****BEFORE HIS HONOUR H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (PUISNE JUDGE).****AN EMIGRATION CASE.**

The action by Tam Yuen against Tam Hun and aip Hing Lung for \$651, balance of money due on a promissory note, which was partly heard, came before the Court again. Mr. F. X. D'Almada (of Messrs. D'Almada and Smith) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Davidson (from Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) for the defendant.

The second defendant, under cross-examination, said he did not know that it was against the law to send the man in question to America.

Mr. James T. Fuller, acting Consul-General for the United States of America in Hongkong, deposed that it was part of his duty to assist in enforcing the Immigration Laws of the United States. Witness said that he obtained consent from Washington to give testimony in this case. He appeared privately. Anything he said was of his own private knowledge, and did not bind the government which he represented.

Mr. D'Almada said that if Mr. Fuller only spoke privately his evidence could hardly be accepted.

His Lordship—You know what he means—he speaks privately. It is not a State utterance. It does not bind his government.

Mr. Fuller said in principle the law absolutely prohibited the entrance of Chinese labourers into the United States. It specified and defined the classes of Chinese who were admitted.

His Lordship—How does a labourer become a labourer under the law?

Mr. Fuller—It is a rather long definition. The law regards everyone as a labourer who does not come within the exempted class.

His Lordship—Then the onus is on the person seeking entrance to prove he is exempted.

Mr. Fuller said the law outlined and defined the exempted classes, and the conditions under which they were admitted, and also prescribed fines and penalties for breaches of the law. The penalty was a fine or imprisonment, or both. The person who attempted the illegal importation was the person liable. The person imported would be sent back to the port or place from which he came. If a Chinese got in illegally and was discovered after ten years he would still be deported. An exempted person who wished to enter the United States must obtain a certificate from the government where he is ordinarily resident, and that certificate must be vised by the United States Consul there. An agent would not be heard in such a case. Witness would not discuss such a matter with an agent. Continual attempts were being made to break the laws, and all sorts of trouble occurred.

Cross-examined by Mr. D'Almada—If an agent had papers vised by the Consul at Canton he could obtain a ticket from the shipping firms in Hongkong.

Re-examined—There was a general order to the Consulates prohibiting dealing with third persons in these matters. That was issued with a view to preventing brokerage.

After hearing evidence his Lordship reserved his decision.

#### THE KOWLOON RAILWAY.

#### QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In the House of Commons last month, Mr. Ginnell (West Meath, N., Nat.) asked the Under-Secretary for the Colonies whether he would inform the House of the reason why the construction of the Kowloon Railway at Hongkong, laid out by a competent engineer, the length being about 22 miles, and the final estimate of cost some £500,000, was not let by public tender to any of the responsible contracting firms willing to construct it for that sum within a specified time, but was being carried on departmentally, with no time limit, at a cost now estimated at over £1,000,000; why the principle of public tender, enforced by the Government Departments, was departed from by the Colonial Office in respect of engineering works in the Colonies; and whether, seeing that the payment to Crown Agents of a percentage on the amount such works cost gave them an interest in increasing that amount, and the control of such works gave them extensive patronage in the Colonies and unlimited discretion in the placing of orders for manufactured materials, also without any test by public tender, he would say when the Colonial Office would, like other public departments, abandon nomination and patronage and adopt public tender in the Colonies as in this country.

Colonel Seely—The decision to construct this line departmentally was taken on the advice of the consulting engineers after full consideration of the circumstances. The increase in the estimated cost, to which my hon. friend refers, is due partly to unexpected difficulties in construction, and partly to extensions of the original design. The question whether such works shall be constructed departmentally or otherwise is decided in each case on its merits, and I may mention that more than one important work in the Crown Colonies is now being executed by contractors as the result of competitive tenders. The Crown Agents are not paid by percentage, but receive fixed salaries. The colony does not pay to them a percentage on the amount of the work in question, and the Crown Agents have neither the control of the work nor any patronage in the colony in connection therewith.

#### PROMENADE CONCERT AT KOWLOON.

The conditions were ideal for the promenade concert held at Kowloon on Saturday night. There was not the slightest suggestion of rain, the air was pleasantly cool, the turf under foot was soft and springy, and the moon had "raised her lamp on high," revealing the King's Park and its environs in a magic light and imparting a beauty even where little existed. The promoters of the concert, however, did not rely entirely on Dame Nature for fine effects. The pavilion of the Kowloon Cricket Club was outlined in electric lights and the entrance to the ground was brilliantly illuminated, the letters "K. C. C." forming the chief feature of the scheme of illumination, while an avenue of Chinese lanterns added materially to the beauty of the aspect. The programme, too, arranged for the occasion, was of considerable merit, so that the atmospheric conditions being favourable it was not to be wondered that there should be an exceptionally large attendance of the public.

The band of the Rajputs under Bandmaster Coke had the honour of opening the programme. Verdi's great work "Il Trovatore" received a very fine interpretation and praise was lavishly bestowed at the close. Another ambitious effort was the overture "William Tell," which was greatly enjoyed, as well as the barn dance "Coon's Honeymoon (Cole and Coke). That such excellent results should be obtained from a native band is highly creditable to Mr. Coke and to the sons of Ind who follow his baton. Miss Parke's sweet clear voice was heard to advantage in "Kashmiri Song" and "Love's Garden," both very fine efforts, while Mrs. Belilios, who proved to be in excellent voice, gave her usually cultured rendering when she sang "A Chain of Roses." The inevitable encore was demanded to which she responded. Mrs. Kew was unfortunately unable to appear owing to indisposition in the duet "A Night in Venice," but Mr. Richard White joined Mr. Ayris in the duet "The moon hath raised." Mr. White should prove an acquisition to Hongkong entertainment, as he is the possessor of a fine robust voice of considerable compass. The partnership proved very acceptable. It created a desire to hear Mr. White again, which was gratified when he rendered "The Trumpeter," a selection which suited him admirably. He too had to respond to an encore. Mr. E. Gregory supplied the humorous element and delighted the audience with the display of his attainments in getting music out of glasses and bottles and also in playing brass instruments. Mr. Frank Anderson and Professor Gonzales were also absentees, but the entertainment proved long enough for those who had ferries and trains to catch. In conclusion, it may be said that the concert was a decided success. The promoters had made adequate provisions which appealed to the eye, to the ear, and also to the palate.

#### DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE AT CLUB LUSITANO.

The Amateur Dramatic Club of the Portuguese cruiser *Vasco da Gama* gave a performance at the Club Lusitano on Saturday night on behalf of the sufferers by the recent earthquake at Ribatijo in Portugal. The spacious hall of Luiz de Camões was decorated for the occasion by the crews of the Portuguese cruisers in the harbour, and despite the heat there was a good attendance. The programme proved very acceptable, and encores were numerous. Lieut Ferreira is to be congratulated on having trained the capable performers who made such an agreeable impression on the auditors. The Orchestra Philharmonic contributed to the pleasure of the evening, and the entertainment was concluded by the playing of the Portuguese National Anthem and the British National Anthem.

The directors of the Hotel van Wijk Co., Ltd., Singapore, have just declared an interim dividend of 15 per cent. for the half year ending May 31, 1909. During the past two years the dividends paid have been 20 per cent. and 30 per cent., respectively.

#### FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

##### THE STRIKE AT HAWAII.

Tokyo, July 6th.  
A consular report from Hawaii states that neither the employers there nor the Japanese are willing to yield, and that there is no prospect of an end to the trouble.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

##### THE BOARD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Peking, July 6th.  
It is reported that Tang Shao Yi will succeed Liang Tun Yin as President of the Board of Foreign Affairs.

##### A PAWNBROKER'S GRIEVANCE.

Inspector Dymond, who prosecuted an Aberdeen fish dealer for conducting a pawnbroker's business without paying the requisite licence, illustrated the hardships which the licensee suffers through the competition of such men. The case was tried at the Magistracy before Mr. J. R. Wood, to whom Inspector Dymond stated that the sum paid for a licence was \$750 a year, but as a result of this unfair competition one pawnshop in Aberdeen had to close down, thereby depriving the Government of \$750, and another was in a shaky condition, yet the defendant, who was a salt fish dealer and charged a higher rate of interest than a pawnbroker, had been doing business for over a year without a licence. He saved the \$750 for a licence, and though the maximum penalty is \$200 he was fined only \$100.

##### ANGLO-CHINESE BOXING TOURNAMENT.

Although the general opinion is not always correct, there can be no doubt of the fact generally proclaimed at Saturday night's boxing contests in the City Hall, that the whole affair was a farce. A large crowd, composed mostly of admiring Chinese, assembled to witness various battles with the gloves between Occidentals and Orientals, but the average Chinese pugilist is not yet far enough advanced to face the more experienced European boxer. Consequently there was but one of the numerous native combatants who gave anything like a decent display, and this man was a pupil of the great Sandow. To the Europeans the whole affair was a huge joke, and when they entered the ring they simply played with their opponents as a cat does with a mouse. Certainly it was very kind of them not to hasten the defeat and thereby dishearten the Chinese brave, but the two minute rounds and three minute intervals began to pall on the men who had turned up to see some sport. It was interesting, however, to watch a pair of "battlers" spring up to the sound of the gong. The Chinese would pose with all the grace of an ancient Roman warrior, but would appear considerably disconcerted when the European proceeded to jump about him, tapping him about the head and body, while the forceful counters of the native would be wasted on the air. One Oriental received a blow on the nose which apparently carried the same science as the historic one dealt by Sam Weller. He did not appear to realise exactly where he was afterwards, and as he walked towards his chair his seconds got ready with towels to give him a much needed "breather". But the boxer didn't wait. He stepped through the ropes and disappeared, being followed by a salvo of cheers and a chorus of "hi yahs". Then, for diversion, a sailor was knocked out by a Chinaman. But many of the spectators, including Chinese, were unkind, and said it was a fake. The Chinese, however, are only beginning to acquire a knowledge of the science of the "manly art". Perhaps, months hence, some of the Europeans who take them so cheaply will recover from a knock-out blow to realise the wisdom of not giving away any chances.

## CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

2nd July, 1909.

**STOPPING THE ISSUE OF BANK NOTES.**  
His Excellency the Viceroy has received a dispatch from the Board of Revenue in Peking stating that under section 2 Regulation 1 of the Laws Governing Banks it is stated that before the publication of new laws regarding the circulation of paper money all banks established by officials and merchants are granted temporary permission to issue banknotes for the convenience of trade, etc., This was a method temporarily adopted to suit the convenience of the general public. Having now compiled suitable laws to govern the circulation of paper money, the dispatch says it has devolved upon the Board to fix a date prohibiting the further issue of paper money by the banks, as it is apprehended that the markets will be inundated with paper money of different values to the great hindrance to trade and commerce. The issue of bank notes must be discontinued fifteen days after the receipt of this dispatch, and all bank notes that are now in circulation must be gradually withdrawn from the markets by the issuing banks. In future a limit will be placed on paper money issued by the banks, "and there should also be a fixed standard of currency."

The Board add that full particulars of the methods to be adopted will be forwarded in due course. The Viceroy is instructed to inform all the official banks in the province to strictly conform to these instructions and also to instruct the local authorities to notify all the commercial associations and the merchants to carry out and obey the above orders.

## OFFICIAL MATTERS.

It is reported that shortly after Viceroy Chang received by cable the Imperial Edict announcing his promotion to the position of Viceroy of Liang Kiang, His Excellency received another telegram from the Grand Council at Peking urging him to proceed to Liang Kiang to take up his new appointment as soon as possible. It is said that Viceroy Chang decided to hand over his official functions to Provincial Treasurer Woo on the 11th inst. and leave Canton before the end of this month. The Salt Commissioner will be appointed acting Provincial Treasurer. Treasurer Woo has been acting Viceroy of the two Kwang on several occasions. It is rumoured that on the arrival of the new Viceroy, H.E. Woo will be promoted Governor of Honan, as Governor Wu of the latter Province has already sent in his resignation.

His Excellency Yuan Shu Hsun the new Viceroy of the two Kwang, is expected to arrive here in August. He is a native of Hunan Province and is known to be one of the most anti-foreign officials in China. Viceroy Yuan is an exceedingly ambitious man and was Taotai of Shanghai only a few years ago. His rapid promotion of late years was due to the numerous memorials which were sent to the Throne by him dealing on the subjects of establishment of parliament, the evil effects of the copper cent currency and many other important national matters.

## THE MURDER OF A JAPANESE.

The Viceroy has been informed that several arrests have been made in connection with the murder of the Japanese named Saichiro Noguchi and his coolie at the Ma Chay village in the District of Tsang Sheng, and that the passport belonging to the deceased Japanese was found in the possession of one of the prisoners. The Viceroy in acknowledging the information wrote:—"It is astounding to hear that the people of the Ma Chay village had the audacity to murder a Japanese subject named Saichiro Noguchi and his servant and to throw their bodies into the river. Such an outrageous act means treating the laws with extreme contempt. I desire to know how the affair originated and what was the real cause of this quarrel! I instruct the sub-prefect to find out without delay the real facts of the case, and at the same time Magistrate Woo is instructed to ascertain who were the actual murderers. Only genuine evidence of eye-witnesses should be sent to me. I command you to instruct the military officials of the Tsang Sheng District to dispatch soldiers to make

further investigation and to arrest all the people who were implicated in the matter and have them punished. Procrastination on the part of any of the military officials will render them liable to be severely reprimanded. I have instructed the provincial judge to communicate my full instructions to you in this matter."

## FAREWELL CALL.

This morning Mr. Fox, H.B.M.'s Consul-General here, paid a farewell call on His Excellency Viceroy Chang and also to offer His hearty congratulations upon the important promotion which His Excellency has received.

## CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

The elections for the Provincial Parliaments take place in most of the provinces in China on the 1st day of the 6th moon. The voting is by ballot. His Excellency Viceroy Chang has given instructions to the local authorities to forward him a list of all the candidates representing the various Prefectures and Districts in the Kwangtung Province and also to have the balloting rules printed for distribution, balloting paper, and all the necessary stationery and member's licences ready for use.

7th July, 1909.

## SALE OF THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CONCERN.

It is reported that a formal contract was signed at the British Consulate and a sum of \$100,000 bargain money was paid over to the China Light and Power Company, Ltd, by the Chinese Government on the 5th inst. for the purchase of that concern, and that the balance of the purchase money will be paid before the end of this month. Messrs. Thorne and Gerard, electrical engineers, will be retained by the new Company until the expiration of their agreements in 1913.

The Board of Posts and Communications has notified all the Viceroys and Governors in China that all electric light and telephone concerns and all matters and business concerning electric power are under the control of that Board, as officially recorded in a memorial presented to the Throne in the 6th moon of the 33rd year of Kwong Hsui.

## THE "FATSHAN" AFFAIR.

The Chinese papers publish a letter stated to have been addressed by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire to the Chinese merchants engaged in the Manila trade, expressing their regret that the Fatshan affair has not been settled, and intimating that the firm is prepared to pay the sum of \$3,200 as compensation and to change the Captain of the steamer; to press the authorities for a reinvestigation of the case, and to post notices on the steamer warning the crew against harsh treatment of the passengers. The letter suggests that if this undertaking is made known to the public they will recognise that no blame attaches to the firm, and confidence is expressed that the Chinese merchants will continue those friendly relations with the firm which have existed for so many years.

## THREATENING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SHAMEEN.

Recently several firms on the Shameen have received letters, purporting to be signed by the notorious pirate chiefs Luk Lan Ching and Lo Wing, demanding from each of the firms very large sums of money, the total of which amount to something like \$500,000, and threatening that unless the money is paid on a certain date they would reduce all the buildings on the Shameen to ashes. It will be remembered that Lo Wing was one of the convicts who recently escaped from the Shun Tak Prison. It is said that the British Consul has reported the matter to the Viceroy.

A sad drowning fatality occurred at Wanchai on July 3rd. Two Chinese schoolboys went into the harbour to bathe near the Wanchai Sanitary Office, and while sporting in the water both got beyond their depth. One was drowned before the arrival of assistance. The other was rescued just in time by a native boatman, and was landed on the Praya when Inspector Kerr was passing. The Inspector, after rendering first aid, caused the youth to be removed to No. 2 Station where he was kept until he had recovered.

## THE MURDER OF DR. LALCACA.

Foreign residents of Shanghai and very many Chinese, says the *N.C. Daily News*, will read this telegram with deep regret, for the death of Dr. Cawas Lalcaca removes one of the best known and most prominent members of the community. Brief as are the telegrams conveying the sad news of his death, it is yet quite plain that the assassin intended to murder Sir William Curzon Wyllie only, and that Dr. Lalcaca being in the immediate vicinity was struck accidentally by the last shot in the revolver. Probably Dr. Lalcaca rushed forward to render assistance, as he would have been quite ready to do even in such dangerous circumstances. Dr. Lalcaca had only been a few weeks in London and those who knew him best would be the last to believe that he had given cause for such deadly animosity, even to a fiery tempered Indian student. Dr. Lalcaca was the son of a well known and highly respected Civil Servant of India, the late Mr. Cusetji Lalcaca, Superintendent in the Poissal Service. He was born in Ahmedabad, Gujrot Division, India, in 1863, and took preliminary medical degrees in Bombay. In 1884 he went to London, where he qualified as L.M., L.B.C.P. Later on he won his M.D., Brussels, and in 1886 he arrived in Shanghai and established a practice.

During the twenty-three years of his residence in Shanghai Dr. Lalcaca had always taken a prominent part in philanthropic movements. He was very popular socially, and was one of the keenest members of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps, in which he held the position of Surgeon-Major, and Principal Medical Officer of the Corps. He took unusual interest in military sports and rifle shooting and contributed freely in promoting these branches of service, both with trophies and personal effort. At the annual encampments he was always a familiar figure and he delighted no less in the rough field work of the Volunteer than in the scientific details of military work with which the ordinary Volunteer is not so familiar. He was a Mason of high degree and a member of the Grand Lodge of northern China.

As one of the recognized leaders of the local Parsee community, however, Dr. Lalcaca was known best, and when the Aga Khan visited Shanghai some two years ago came particularly into prominence and occupied a chief part in arranging receptions and entertainments for the distinguished visitor. All matters affecting the welfare of the Parsees possessed warm interest for Dr. Lalcaca, and it was always felt that although he came most frequently into association with people of other foreign communities his own people were never forgotten, and always retained first place in his affection.

In 1902 Dr. Lalcaca took long leave and renewed old friendships at the Southern ports and India before continuing his journey to Europe. After a short holiday he returned, and during the past seven years he worked diligently at his profession in Shanghai until February 11 last, when he went away for another holiday. After visiting his people in India he left Bombay on April 17 and went to London, intending to return to Shanghai in October next. He was a member of the Imperial Institute and would naturally have been there frequently, though yesterday apparently an important function was being held at the Institute.

Dr. Lalcaca was not married, and his only relative in Shanghai is his uncle, Mr. B. P. Lalcaca, exchange and general broker, but his brother, Mr. R. C. Lalcaca, is now on a visit to China after making a tour of Japan and was expected at Shanghai on the 12th instant.

Not only residents of Shanghai but people of the Far East generally, from Japan to India, will be seriously concerned at the death of Dr. Lalcaca, and further news will be awaited with the sombre interest that attaches to such a tragic and unexpected termination to a virile life.

We understand that arrangements are being made for the two lakhs of dollars promised by the Canton Provincial Government for the Hongkong University to be handed over to the treasurer of the scheme before Viceroy Chang leaves to take up his new appointment.

## SHIPPING NOTES.

The P. and O. steamer *Assaye*, 3,459 tons and drawing 22ft. 2in. passed through the "straits" Channel, Shanghai, on the 28th ult. She was the largest vessel which had passed through since H.M.S. *Astrea* (3,460 tons and drawing 23ft.) passed through on May 10th. The *Assaye* left Woosung about 6.30 p.m. and was berthed alongside the China Merchants' Eastern wharf at 8.15 p.m. She passed up without lightering cargo or transferring mails at Woosung.

The Toyo Kisen Kaisha declares a loss of Y.500,000 for the half year ending with June. This loss comes on the top of one of Y.800,000. for the previous half year. Though undoubtedly discouraging, such a state of affairs is not considered surprising in view of the dullness prevailing throughout the shipping world. In order to re-adjust internal affairs and enhance the Company's credit, it is proposed to increase the number of directors by two and that of auditors by one. President Asano retains his position.

The accounts of the "Shell" Transport and Trading Co. for 1908 show a credit to the profit and loss account of £710,551. Deducting management, legal and other expenses (£7,557), there remains £702,994 to be carried to the balance-sheet. From this amount preference and interim dividends have already been paid. The directors do not deem it necessary to appropriate any sum to reserve, which remains at £720,000, with £1'0.00 at the credit of reserve fund. There remains a balance of £322,994, from which the directors recommend a further and final dividend of 10 per cent. payable on July 5 (making 20 per cent. for the year), leaving £192,994 to be carried. Reports received from the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, Limited, and the Bataafsche Petroleum Maatschappij justify the payment on account of this year of an interim dividend of 5 per cent. (i.e., at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum), which will also be made on July 5.

Already the P. & O. Company have formulated their Autumn arrangement in connection with their trunk line services to Eastern ports. The Bombay service, it is announced, will be chiefly supplied by the new steamships of the "M" class and the Australian services wholly by these vessels which are the most modern examples of the Company's shipbuilding enterprise. There are to be supplementary departures to Bombay on October 6th and November 3rd, respectively, of 7,000-ton steamers carrying one class of passenger only, at intermediate fares equivalent to the second saloon rates of the mail steamers. This is a concession which Anglo-Indians will not fail to appreciate. We learn that an improved fortnightly service to Ceylon, China and Japan by intermediate steamers, without transhipment, is another feature of the P. and O. programme.

A probable amalgamation of the Hamburg-American Line and the Norddeutsche Lloyd has of late been the general topic of conversation, and although the directorships of both companies have issued denials of the rumour, the matter continues to receive a good deal of attention in the German press. Contradicting the project, a Hamburg paper, which is in close relations with the Hamburg-American Line, says the sphere of interests of the two companies is of a much too different nature to be merged into one concern, and it would be impossible to concentrate the management of such enormous enterprises in one hand. To this has to be added the inveterate antagonism between the cities of Hamburg and Bremen. An amalgamation would not be likely to result in any substantial reduction of expenses.

There is a demand at Penang for a properly constituted Port Trust. A question of great importance to the future of the port of Penang, says the *Penang Gazette*, is at this moment agitating the shipping and mercantile community of the Settlement. The management of the Government Wharves recently issued a circular disclaiming all and any liability for damage to cargo landed after nightfall, and the agents of one of the principal lines of freight steamers have followed the example and also

repudiated liability. So that the unfortunate consignee has to take all the responsibility and risk, for the ships will overcarry his goods if they cannot work at night, and the Government Wharves simply tell him to land them elsewhere if he does not care to abide by their regulations. Very few firms are in a position to handle all their consignments themselves, and what is practically a deadlock has arisen. According to the views of the merchants, the liability should be accepted by the shipping companies, for neither the Government Wharves nor the consignees have anything to gain through cargo being landed at night and both would be perfectly willing to receive it next morning, whereas the ship is naturally anxious to get rid of it in order to obtain quick despatch and proceed upon her voyage.

On her last voyage to Seattle the *Minnesota*'s port tail shaft broke when she was about 500 miles off Cape Flattery. The information was received in Seattle by wireless, the message saying that the only result of the accident would be to delay her arrival in port a few hours. She arrived in port, however, almost on schedule time and had it not been for the mishap would have made a record run across the Pacific. She steamed, according to the Chief Engineer, George E. Allen, an average of 13½ knots after leaving Yokohama May 21 and was 1,700 miles out, more than half-way home, May 29, when at 5 o'clock in the morning, the break in the shaft occurred. The cause of the mishap is unknown, but is thought to be a flaw in the shaft. Prompt action on the part of the engineers prevented any trouble resulting from the break, although the part of the shaft attached to the propeller slipped out 16 feet and would have dropped had it not been at once secured with heavy chains. The *Minnesota* was to follow the battleship *Oregon* in the Puget Sound Navy Yard drydock. If it was found that no other damage was done, the shaft could be repaired in four or five days and the vessel leave on schedule time, June 19. The *Minnesota* completed the voyage after the mishap at the rate of about 10 knots.

## THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY

A Special Correspondent of the N.C. *Daily News* writing from Hongkong on the 23rd ult. says:—Within the last week I have travelled from Lokchong, thirty miles from the Hunan border, to Canton, thus covering the entire area in which the Canton-Hankow Railway Company is at work. By river the distance is estimated at about 250 miles, but when the railroad is completed this will be reduced to about 190 miles.

The leading party of surveyors consists of an American, Mr. Williams, who took part in the survey made some six years ago for the original American concessionaires, a Frenchman, M. Baby, and a Japanese. They are at present prospecting near Yongke, some ten miles south of Lokchong, and it is expected that in a few weeks' time they will have completed the survey to Lokchong. Travelling by river I found it impossible to estimate how much cutting and tunnelling may be required, but those who know the road do not anticipate serious difficulties here. The titanic toil will come as the railway has to be made across "The Range" to Hunan, where two lofty ranges of hills lie in the track.

## POINTS IN PASSING.

Between Lokchong and Shiu-chow the line passes some rich coal-fields. At Yangke and also at Laiputao, some twenty miles south, the natives work the mineral entirely on the surface and turn out a fine, soft coal of serviceable quality. We have used it for some years and although it is rather a slow burning coal it gives off an intense heat.

At Shiu-chow, 153 miles by rail to Canton, it was generally supposed that the station would be built on the narrow neck of land which joins the "City of the Peninsula" to the mainland. The engineers, however, have wisely decided to place the main station on the south of the Namshung River a little below the pagoda. This situation is not so near the city, but it has the advantage of unlimited space for siding accommodation, waiting rooms and all the requirements of a station. It will also be convenient if the projected extension to Namshung ever matures

Moreover, it can easily be reached by boat from both extremities of the city, while it also stands between the compound of the Berlin Mission and that of the English Wesleyan Mission.

The work of construction has not yet begun at Shiu-chow, but above Yingtak we met three construction parties engaged in clearing the track and fixing the grade prior to letting the contract.

At Mongfukong, 100 miles from Canton by rail, a neat, wooden bungalow has been erected for the staff, but above this the work is being temporarily directed from houseboats. Below Yingtak, ninety-three miles from Canton, most of the contracts have been let and work is proceeding. The tunnel at Taimiao is now completely cut through, but the three tunnels on the Blind Boy's Pass, the longest of which is 300 feet, are proceeding slowly.

## A BUSY SCENE.

I have never seen Yingtak look so busy as when I reached it last week. The usual shipping thronged the river, the railway motor-launch fitted about with a speed unknown before in these parts, while the steam-launch which, in conjunction with the train, is credited with making it possible to reach Canton in one day, gave an air of business to the place. I ventured the journey, but the trip up the small stream from the North River to Yuntam, the present terminus, took three hours. It was a stiff tussle getting our baggage transferred to the train by women, who fought for the work and their wage, and our belongings suffered in consequence. We arrived, a sweating, breathless crowd only to be told that the last train had just gone. This meant putting up at a native inn, but as it was a new one built last year there was not much to grumble at. The railway employees lodged next door and I was surprised to learn that they were moving en masse to the Canton terminus to take the place of that staff there whose turn it was to spend the next month in Yuntam. This monthly exchange from town to country struck me as very equitable, but the reason why I could not learn.

## EFFECT OF FLOODS.

In a former letter I advised you that in consequence of the high floods of last year the embankments were all being raised and the line in places deflected to a surer foundation at the base of the hills. The floods of this year were not abnormal, but for six miles about Yuntam and in many places nearer Canton they have scoured away tons of material from the permanent way. In some places shrubs and trees have been planted in order to bind the banking together, but a contractor who travelled with me said the line would never be secure unless a cemented facing of stone were erected at Section six; and I felt inclined to agree with him. The Company has faced the banks in places with loose stone, but the water has undermined it and much of the bank has collapsed.

Between Yuntam and Canton no great engineering feats have been necessary. The biggest bridge would be about 200 feet wide. A few heavy cuttings have been encountered, but the bulk of the work has been to raise the line above the paddies and to bridge the numerous irrigation canals. Two trains a day make the double journey, taking three hours to cover the distance of forty-four miles. There are thirteen stations en route, but outside the environs of Canton none of the places were of great size or importance. The fare for first, second and third-class is respectively \$1.95, \$1.15 and 65 cents.

All the materials for bridges, rails, plates, etc., and also the rolling stock have come from the United States, so I expect that the two large bridges, one 500 feet wide at Shiu-chow and one 800 feet wide at Yingtak, will also be supplied from the same source.

A Chinese recently returned from America was arrested on a West River steamer on Wednesday with a Winchester rifle and 448 rounds of ammunition in his possession. The rifle, which had been taken to pieces, was found concealed in a bundle of vermicelli, while the ammunition was discovered in two iron buckets. Defendant was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy yesterday and fined \$250, the alternative being three months' imprisonment.

## COMMERCIAL

## IMPORTS:

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 9th July:—Good harvest has been reported, the prices is consequently declining
Saigon, Ordinary ..... \$480. to \$4.85
" Bound, Good quality ... 4.90 to 4.95
" Long ..... 5.0 to 5.05
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ... 5.05 to 5.10
" Garden, " No. 1 ... 4.85 to 4.90
" White, ..... 5.20 to 5.25
" Fine Cargo ..... 5.30 to 5.35

## COAL.

HONGKONG, July 9th.—The arrivals of coal since the 10th inst. amounted to 45,600 tons of Japanese, 6,000 tons Hongay, 3,000 Chinwangtao, and 4,000 tons Newport. The coal expected is 45,200 tons Japanese, 6,900 tons Hongay, 4,000 tons Borneo, 10,000 Wales and 8,000 tons North China. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff ..... \$21.0 to 22.50 ex-godown, nominal.  
Australian ..... \$10.5 to 12.50 ex-godown, nominal.  
Yubari Lump ..... \$12.00 Nominal.  
Miiki Lump ..... \$10.50 to 11.00 ex-ship, nominal.  
Moji Lump ..... \$7.75 to \$9.50 ex-ship, steady.  
Moji Unscreened \$8.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.  
Akaike Lump ..... \$8.75 to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady.  
Labuan Lump ..... \$9.00 ex-ship sellers.

## OPIUM.

HONGKONG, July 8th.—Since the 24th ulto, the movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa. Patna. Benares. Persian				
Stocks on the 24th June, 1909	—	2,683	2,498	1,030 450
June 24th Imports per Assaye	—	—	—	13
July 29th " " Nameang	—	250	108	—
July 7th " " Laisang	—	165	115	—
" 7th " " Delta	1	100	—	33
—	—	—	—	—
2,684	3,013	1,259	496	—
Less Exports to Shanghai ..	107	40	45	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight. . . . .	122	481	184	29
Estimated Stocks this day ..	2,395	2,492	1,030	467

Bengal.—There has been a fair demand at declining rates, and deliveries also show some signs of improvement. The decline is due to an entire absence of support from the Shanghai market due to heavy stocks there. At the close the market is dull at \$960. for Panta and \$975. for Old and New Benares.

Malwa.—The market is quiet. A sale of 3 years old drug is reported at \$1,180.-

Persian.—Quiet. Superior drug is quoted at \$1040/50.-

## JAPANESE MARKET.

Yokohama, June 15th, 1909.—Cotton Yarns.—Buyers having practically filled their requirements for the coming season there is virtually nothing doing. An occasional parcel has been put through for prompt shipment of stock lots from Manchester. Woollen and Woolen Mixtures.—Orders for next Spring goods are still very slow in coming forward, and Bradford prices are rather a stumbling block to new business. Raw Cotton.—Prices still remain firm in producing countries, and spinners are not yet showing much interest in forward contracts. Rice.—The Saigon market rules higher, but local ideas remain the same. There is no fresh business to report. Metals.—The market is in the same quiet condition as last reported. Window Glass.—Although this is ordinarily the dull season this year there is a good demand from the interior, and merchants are making good profits. Orders for new business have dropped somewhat. Sugar.—At the auction held on the 5th instant 6,110 bags were sold at the same price as obtained at the previous auction on the 6th May, viz., from Y. 17.80 to Y. 18.70 per bag. Flour.—There is no business passing, the difference in ideas between buyers here and sellers in the producing countries being about ten 25 per quarter sack. Wheat.—No transactions reported

## PIECE GOONS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co, in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 25th June, 1909, state:—The first half of what was looked forward to as promising to be a revival year has passed and gone, and it cannot be said that the anticipated improvement in this trade has come to pass. Some few lines of the old stocks are certainly much reduced, but others are accumulating rapidly, making it difficult to say if it is the old cargo that is going into consumption or remaining in Godowns. Many Importers have found buyers eager to take delivery of their goods so soon as the steamers arrived, so that it would appear a great deal of the old stocks are being carried still, a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, especially when it is considered that goods with a lower laying down cost have been arriving to this market. It is to be presumed, too, that a considerable proportion of the heavy supplies on the way must have been bought at lower prices, or what was the object in buying? They were certainly not bought as replacing orders, and, if rumour is in any way correct, that they are to be sold here at bed rock prices it is a poor look out for the market. Fortunately circumstances over which they have no control are favouring the holders of goods once more, the enhanced cost of the raw material, together with the decline in Exchange, practically prohibiting further importations for the time being. The weather conditions, also, are none too favourable, and it remains to be seen if irretrievable damage has not been done to the crops all over the Country. It is not surprising, therefore, that trade has not shown more life than it has since the settlement, and making all the more welcome the demand that has sprung up late for Tientsin. It comprises chiefly of American makes, the supply of which was obtainable almost entirely from second hand holders, who appear to have given into the ideas of the Northern buyers as regards prices, quite irrespective of replacing cost. Newchwang has also bought a little and some light weight Drills have been booked for the up River. Manchester quotations are much higher, the market here being fully five to seven per cent below replacing cost. Some special makes of cloth are reported as much as eight pence up. This is due to the high price of Cotton, the Liverpool quotation on the 29th ulto being 6.26/- for spot, but this morning 6.22/- was received. The New York forward quotations are, 11.49 cents for August, 11.60 cents for October and 11.62 cents for January. We are glad to hear the exports of Plain Cottons from England to China fell off considerably in the latter part of June, being only 12,000,000 yards. The New York market keeps very firm, the price asked for standard makes being the equivalent of fully three to four mace over the ruling here. The Yarn market keeps active in all its branches, and the prices realised extraordinary when compared with those obtainable for woven goods. Indian Spinnings show a larger turn over for the week than for some time past, though it is doubtful if the whole quantity is to fill the consumptive demand. Bombay is very firm, prices up two to three Rupees, and sales of about 3,000 bales for near shipment to China are reported. Japanese Yarns have at last taken an upward movement over 2,000 bales changing hands at a good advance, but not on a parity with Osaka yet. Local Spinnings are receiving a fair amount of attention still and better prices are being paid in sympathy with the raw staple. Although importers have not taken much hand in the business this week they are finding clearances fairly satisfactory, when the weather permits. Some few sales were made privately in Heavy Shirtings, Jeans and White Shirtings, the particulars, however, are not published. The lack of demand for 8.4-lbs. Shirtings is very pronounced, holders of either finding it most difficult to move them. In American Drills and Sheetings, the light weights of the former being wanted up River, it is difficult to estimate the exact quantity that has changed hands, as most has been done amongst the Natives, but we are able to give the following quotations:—In Drills Flower Tls. 4.10, Enorce FF, Piedmont B. and Ring Buffalo Tls. 4.27, Clifton R. and Petzer P. Tls. 4.37, 3 Fish and Van and Fish Tls. 4.37, Williston Tls. 4.60, 4 Farott Tls. 4.60/62, Large and Small Eagle and Eagle and Snake Tls. 4.62, Pacolet Tls. 4.82, Pepperell Dragon Tls. 5.07/5.10. In Sheetings the following are amongst the quotation:—Lindale Tls. 4.37, Buffalo Tls. 4.30, Orr A. Tls. 4.55, Piedmont Tls. 4.57, Entrepise A. Camel K. Foxhall AAA, Williton, Clifton Tls. 4.60, Abbeville Tls. 4.62, Small Dragon, and Horse Head Tls. 4.65, Atlantic A. Tls. 4.70.

Massachusetts Tls. 4.72, Sopo-a Tls. 4.75 and Indian Head Tls. 4.95. In addition some common 4 yard goods sold at Tls. 3.52. We estimate that fully 5 to 6,000 bales must have changed hands of both makes. The general tone at the Auctions this week has been decidedly firmer, with the exception of 8.4-lbs. Shirtings. The heavier weights of Shirtings went at steady to firm prices with few exceptions. White Shirtings were fairly steady this morning, while prices were paid for the book folds, as also the Grey T.-Cloths and Jeans. Turkey Reds have kept steady to firm, but it is strange that they do not improve more rapidly considering the supply is so small now. Fast Black Cotton Italians at the regular sales are maintaining their position very well, the average prices of old shops this week being decidedly firmer. Black Venetians are firmer on the whole. Colored Cotton Lastings are not doing quite so well. Woollens on the whole are keeping fairly steady, but present no special feature of interest.

## YARN.

HONGKONG.—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 9th July, states:—A better feeling has to be noticed in our market for Indian Yarn and during the past fortnight a good enquiry has been experienced and sales effected are much in excess of those last reported. The bulk of these were booked during the earlier portion of the interval if indeed some portion are not old purchases just reported. The demand has been general, but has run chiefly on Nos. 10s and 12s which comprise more than two-thirds of the settlements and show the largest advance in price. Values have appreciated \$1 to \$3 per bale and the aspect of the market at the close points to the maintenance of the advance. Receipts continue heavy, but have been more than counter balanced by deliveries, and our estimate of stocks shows a small falling off. Late telegrams from Bombay make that market strong on the basis of annas 6½ for Assur No. 16s. (Hindu boy) and annas 7½ for Tictoria No 20s (Camel). Sales of the interval aggregate 12,461 bales, arrivals amount to 11,202 unsold stock, estimated at 24,000 and uncleared Yarn in second hands at about 25,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—No business has transpired. Japanese Yarn:—Neglected throughout. Raw Cotton:—Remains very quiet, and delivery under old contracts continues very slow. No new transactions are reported either in Indian or Chinese descriptions and late arrivals are going into godown. Stocks 300 bales Indian and 200 China. Quotations are Indian \$26 to 29 and China \$28 to 31. Exchange on India has fluctuated slightly and closes weak to-day at Rs. 131 for T/T and Rs. 131½ for Post. On Shanghai 7½ and on Japan 8½. The undenoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 24th ultimo, viz:—Indian:—Market steady, total sales about 2,000 bales at unquoted rates. Estimated stock landing and in godowns about 38,000 bales. Japanese:—Sales reported are 1,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 98 to 10 for No. 16s and Tls. 104 to 113½ for No. 20s which show that prices are easier. Local:—In strong demand and sales reported during the interval comprises some 5,500 bales on this of Tls. 97 for No. 12s Tls. 95 to 100 for No. 14s and Tls. 99 to 104 for No. 16s.

## HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 9th July, 1909.

## COTTON PIECE GOONS.

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. .... piece	\$1.90
7 lbs. .... "	2.25 to 2.50
8.4 lbs. .... "	3.00 to 4.15
10 lbs. .... "	4.15 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54/56 reed "	2.80 to 3.65
58/60 "	4.00 to 5.60
64/66 "	6.00 to 7.20
Fine.....	7.25 to 9.75
Book-folds ..	6.25 to 6.90
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... ..	0.75 to 1.80
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y ..	2.10 to 2.20
7 lbs. .... "	2.25 to 2.35
6 lbs. .... Mexican ..	—
7 lbs. .... "	2.70 to 3.95
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) ..	3.50 to 4.25
Drills, English—40 yds. 13½ to 14 lbs. ..	4.60 to 6.00

## FANCY COTTONS.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 6 lbs. piece	1.72 to 5.10
Brocades—Dyed .....	0.10 to 0.15
Chinese—Assorted .....	0.07½ to 0.35
Velvets—Black, 22 in. ....	0.25 to 0.55
Velveteens—18 in. ....	0.23 to 0.28
Handkerchiefs — Imitation Silk per dozen	0.50 to 4.00

## WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry cloths	yard	0.70 to 2.00
German	yard	2.00
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths	"	1.25 to 3.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece	"	7.80 to 9.40
Assorted	"	7.90 to 9.40
Camlets—Assorted	"	—

## WHEATEN FLOUR—

Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches	"	14.00 to 21.00
Assorted	"	—

Orleans—Plain	"	9.00 to 12.00
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	"	0.60 to 1.50

## RAW COTTON—

Bombay	picul	\$25.00 to \$29.00
Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca	"	25.00 to 30.00
Shanghai and Japanese	"	27.00 to 31.00
Tungchow and Ningpo	"	27.00 to 31.00

## METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	picul	\$ 4.05
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.)	"	3.95
Swedish Bar	"	4.10
Small Round Rod	"	4.50
Hoop, 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	"	5.60
Wire, 16/25 oz.	"	9.50
Old Wire Rope	"	3.00
Lead—L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	"	9.20
Australian	"	9.50
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 28 oz.	"	39.50
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	"	39.50
Elliots, 16/28 oz	"	39.50
Tin	"	88.00
Tin-Plates	box	7.00
Steel	cwt. case	—

## MISCELLANEOUS—

Quicksilver	picul	160.00
Window Glass	box	54.5
Kerosene Oil	case	—
Saltpetre, No. 1	picul	\$11.00 to 11.40
Do. No. 2	"	10.80 to 10.90
Do. No. 3	"	9.50 to 10.30
Dayton, per bag of 50 lbs.	gross	\$2.64
Crescent	"	2.50
Orient	"	2.40
Choice	"	2.68
White Lily	"	2.68
White Fawn	"	2.67
Morjon	"	2.67
Cow	"	2.67

## EXPORTS:—

## SILK.

YOKOHAMA, 15th June, 1909.

RAW SILK.—During the fortnight under review, only a moderate business has been done, exporters generally preferring now to await arrivals of new Silks to purchasing the interior goods left on the market. The weather has continued most favourable, and a crop of 135/145,000 bales is expected to be available for export; but it should always be remembered that climatic conditions prevailing during the harvest of the summer and autumn crops may considerably alter this estimate. Contracts in forwards are being done on a limited scale at prices as mentioned in our last report.

WASTE SILK.—A small business doing at slightly higher prices. Settlements from May 25th to June 6th, 1,200 piculs. Total Settlements from July 1st to June 6th, 62,700 piculs. Stock on June 7th is estimated at 4,800 piculs, viz.: Noshi 800 piculs. Kibizzo 3,200 piculs. Pi-reed Cocoons Sundries 800 piculs. Total 4,800 piculs. Against last year 8,500 piculs.

## HABUTAI.

YOKOHAMA, 15th June, 1909.

KANAZAWA.—The market has exhibited a slightly weak tendency since the commencement of the month, buyers showing no disposition to operate to any extent.

ECHIZEN.—Rates for 23 inch in the lighter weights show an advance, but 27 inch and 36 inch are somewhat weaker. The demand from abroad has not been very important.

KAWAMATA.—There is not much change to chronicle in this market, but a stronger tendency is noticeable. There has been more enquiry for 20 in and 23 inch for Europe.

## CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG 9th July:—The above market is at a standstill, and prices remain as last quoted.

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, Dated Shanghai, 2nd July, state:—Gallnuts.—No business. Cowhides.—Season closed. Feathers.—Very little business doing. Cotton.—Season closed. Tallow.—Some inquiry. Market very firm. Wood Oil.—Stocks are small. Tone of market exceedingly firm. Sesame seed—Supplies small. No concessions are obtainable from dealers. Strawbraid.—Market unaninated demand in general weaker: arrivals poor; prices for Shansi Mottled and Loyeh white ste dy. Wool.—Sheeps.—No stocks. Antimony.—A fair inquiry. Market firm.

Per P. & O. steamer *Namur*, sailed on 1st July. For Antwerp—200 bales hemp. For Rotterdam—100 bales hemp. For Liverpool—200 bales hemp. For Manchester—79 bales waste silk. For Genoa—375 bales hemp. For Marseilles—7 bales human hair, 100 bales waste silk. For London—3530 bales hemp, 260 pkges tea, 250 pkges fire crackers, 150 bales waste silk, 185 rolls matting, 6 cases chinaware, 10 cases Bamboo ware, 7 pkges p-effects.

## HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 9th July, 1909.—Although a fair amount of unimportant business has been transacted during the week, the market has ruled dull and with a downward tendency. Rates show weakness at the close in nearly every stock and the demand which existed at the beginning of the week has suddenly stopped. Exchange on London 1/8d, and on Shanghai 74½ for T/Ts.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continuing in demand and with but few sellers, rose further in the early part of the week to 1030, after small sales at 1020 and 125. At the highest rate however a number of shares were put on the market and the rate failed to be maintained, the market falling rather rapidly without sales to 1015, at which they closed with sellers. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions with a few shares put on the market, and in the absence of any but very small buyers, the market has shown signs of weakness, and shares have changed hands at 830 and 825 sellers ruling the market at the close. North Chinas have advanced to 110 without sales, and close with buyers at that rate. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have found buyers at 347½ and close steady to strong at that with buyers. Chinas have improved to 114 with buyers, and with no sellers under 115.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled weaker, and with many sellers at 33 the rate fell to 32, with sales at rates between that and 33, a time of closing sellers rule the market at 32½. Indes have found buyers for covering purposes at 66 for the combined shares the market closing weak with sellers at that. Shells have improved to 62 with buyers and no shares obtainable. Star Ferrys (old) have been placed at 26.

REFINERIES.—Sales of China Sugars are reported at 140. Luzons have changed hands at private rates, and the market closes firmer with no sellers at the rate quoted.

MINING.—We have no business to report under this heading. Raubs have fallen to 8½ with sellers. Lingkats have ruled during the week at from 1,085 to 1,04, closing with buyers in the north at 1,060.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been placed at somewhat erratic rates, at 69, 68, 67 and 66, closing with sellers at 67. Kowloon Wharves have changed hands at 57, 56 and 58, closing with possible sellers at 57. Shanghai Docks have ruled steady in the North at 82 and 83 closing at 80, with the dividend of Tls 2½ paid today. Hongkong Wharves after sales at 63, declined to 158, but have since recovered a little in the North.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Some small lots of Hongkong Lands have changed hands at 108 and 107½, the market closing with sellers at the former rate. West Points have been placed at 46, and Humphreys at 10, both closing with sellers. Hongkong Hotels have improved to 69 for old and 40 for new shares with buyers but no shares appear to be available. Shanghai Lands have improved in the North to 121 with buyers.

COTTON MILLS.—In the early part of the week Ewos declined to 132, but suddenly jumped to 137, and afterwards as quickly fell to 130. At time of writing the latest rate from the North is 134½. Soycches have improved to 895. In the absence of mail news from Shanghai we leave other Cotton Mills unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Sales have taken place of China Provs at 9.60, Dairys at 16½, Men's at 8.90, Watkins at 3.60 and 3.50, Electrics at 20, Ropes at 25 and China Lights at 6½ and 7. Borneos after sales at 14½ close lower at 14, team Laundries and Asbestos are in demand but no shares seem to be available. Peak Trams are also enquired for at the enhanced rate of 14. Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
<b>Banks—</b>		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ \$1,015, sellers £98.10
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	12/6d.	\$104, buyers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$14, sellers
China Light & P. Co....	{ \$10	\$7, sellers
China Provident .....	\$1	—
China Provident .....	\$10	\$9.00, sales
<b>Cotton Mills—</b>		
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 50	Tls. 134½
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$8½, sellers
International .....	Tls. 75	Tls. 88
Iaou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 110
Soychee .....	Tls. 50	Tls. 395
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$8	\$16½, sales & buy.
<b>Docks &amp; Wharves—</b>		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$57
H. & W. Dock .....	\$50	\$67, sellers
New Amoy Dock .....	\$6½	\$9
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd .....	{ Tls. 100	Tls. 80 x.d.
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 158
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$11, sellers
G. Island Cement Co	\$10	\$9, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas ..	£10	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Electric....	\$10	\$20, sales & buy.
Hongkong Hotel Co .....	{ \$50	\$69, (old) buy.
Hongkong Ico Co.....	\$25	\$155, sellers
H'kong Rope M. Co....	\$10	\$25, sales
<b>Insurances—</b>		
Canton .....	\$50	\$195, sellers
China Fire .....	20	\$114, buyers
China Traders .....	\$25	\$88, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$347½, sal. & buy.
North China .....	£5	Tls. 110, buyers
Union .....	\$100	\$225, sellers
Yangtsze .....	\$60	\$215
<b>Land and Buildings—</b>		
H'kong Land Invest	\$100	\$108, sal. & sel.
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$50	\$30, sellers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 121
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$46½
<b>Mining—</b>		
S. F. des C. du T'kin	Fr. 250	\$825, buyers
Raubs .....	18/10d.	\$84, sellers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd	\$10	\$14, buyers
Philippine Co., Ltd .....	\$1	1½
Philippine Co., Ltd .....	\$10	\$8, sellers
<b>Refineries—</b>		
China Sugar .....	\$100	\$140, sales
Luzon Sugar .....	\$100	\$15
Robinson Piano Co. ....	\$50	\$50, sellers
<b>Steamship Companies—</b>		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$10, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$36
H. Canton & M. ....	\$15	\$32, buyers
Indo-China S. N. Co.		

## TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 9th July.—Freights remain about the same as last reported. From Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents; to Philippines, several boats have been closed at 22/23 cents per picul and more tonnage wanted; to Java, 20 cents last. From Newchwang to Canton, 24 cents last. Coal rates are steady. From South Japan coal port to Hongkong, \$2.00/2.10 per ton; Singapore, \$2.75; Canton \$2.50. From Hongay to this, \$1.50; Canton, \$1.85. The following are the settlements:—

A China Nav. Co.'s steamer, Newchwang, Tairen and Chefoo to Canton (22,000), 24 cents per picul.

A China Nav. Co.'s steamer, Newchwang, Tairen and Chefoo to Canton (22,000), 24 cents per picul.

Sexta—German steamer, 992 tons, Newchwang and Chefoo to Amoy, \$7,000 lump sum.

Benvorlich—British steamer, 2,164 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.00 per ton.

Johanne—German steamer, 952 tons, Haiphong to Canton, \$1.80 per ton.

Rajah—German steamer, 1,275 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$13,000 lump sum.

Quinta—German steamer, 987 tons, Saigon to ports Philippines (35/37,000) 21/23 cents per picul.

Fiume—German steamer, 838 tons, Saigon to port Philippines, 23 cents per picul.

Hilary—German steamer, 1,276 tons, Saigon to Java and Java to Hongkong, (Private).

## FREIGHT.

Hankow, 23rd June.—Per Conference Steamers To London and Northern Continental ports 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 32/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G \$1.50 cents per lb gross less than carload Tea G \$1.75 cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 2.50 per ton, weight or measurement.

## EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, July 9th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	1/8 <sup>7</sup>
Bank Bills, on demand .....	1/8 <sup>15</sup>
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight .....	1/9
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight .....	1/9 <sup>15</sup>
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	1/9 <sup>15</sup>
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight .....	1/9 <sup>15</sup>
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand .....	219 <sup>1</sup>
Credits 4 months' sight .....	223 <sup>1</sup>
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand .....	178 <sup>1</sup>
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand .....	42 <sup>8</sup>
Credits, 60 days' sight .....	43 <sup>1</sup>
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	131
Bank, on demand .....	131 <sup>1</sup>
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	131
Bank on demand .....	131 <sup>1</sup>
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight .....	74 <sup>1</sup>
Private, 30 days' sight .....	75 <sup>1</sup>
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand .....	84 <sup>1</sup>
ON MANILA.—	
On demand .....	85 <sup>1</sup>
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand .....	74 <sup>1</sup>
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand .....	104 <sup>1</sup>
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand .....	8 <sup>1</sup> p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand .....	8 <sup>1</sup> p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand .....	86 <sup>1</sup>
Sovereigns, Bank's Buying Rate .....	\$11.35
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael .....	\$59.30
BAR SILVER, per oz .....	23 <sup>15</sup>

## SHIPPING.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

## July:— ARRIVALS.

- 2, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
- 2, Elgin, British str., from Newport.
- 2, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 2, Haiphong, French str., from Saigon.
- 2, Muncaster Castle, Br. str., from Durban.
- 2, Prometheus, Nor. str., from Bangkok.
- 2, Tean, British str., from Manila.
- 3, Chipshing, British str., from Tientsin.
- 3, Foochow, British str., from Moji.
- 3, Knivsberg, German str., from Hoihow.
- 3, Locksun, German str., from Bangkok.
- 3, Mandasan Maru, Jap. str., from Miike.
- 3, Pheumpenh, British str., from Saigon.
- 3, Rajah, German str., from Bangkok.
- 4, Chunsang, British str., from Hongay.
- 4, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
- 4, Tourane, French str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Yingchow, British str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Bingo Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Chiuyen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 5, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
- 5, Kaifong, British str., from Cebu.
- 5, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 5, Scandia, German str., from Foochow.
- 5, Seneca, British str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Soshu Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 5, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
- 6, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Clam, British str., from Singapore.
- 6, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 6, Kueichow, British str., from Tientsin.
- 6, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
- 6, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 6, Taishun, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Swatow.
- 7, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 7, Chenan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 7, Delta, British str., from Bombay.
- 7, Fri, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
- 7, Haiyang, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 7, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
- 7, Monteagle, Br. str., from Vancouver.
- 7, Nanshan, British str., from Hongay.
- 7, Proteus, Nor. str., from Swatow.
- 7, Siberia, Am. str., from San Francisco.
- 7, Tamba Maru, Jap. str., from London.
- 7, Yedo Maru, Jap. str., from Karatsu.
- 8, Caledonien, French str., from Marseilles.
- 8, Germania, German str., from Yokohama.
- 8, Nord, British str., from Tientsin.

## July:— DEPARTURES.

- 2, Fitzpatrick, British str., for Yokohama.
- 2, Germania, German str., for Sydney.
- 2, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 2, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 2, Hanoi, French str., for Q. Chow Wan.
- 2, Hopsang, British str., for Hongay.
- 2, Itsukushima Maru, Jap. str., for Saigon.
- 2, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
- 2, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
- 2, Nippon, Swedish str., for Saigon.
- 2, Oceano, British str., for Moji.
- 2, Shantung, German str., for Batavia.
- 2, Sithonia, German str., for Straits.
- 2, Slavonia, British str., for Shanghai.
- 2, Spir, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 2, Taikosan M., Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 2, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 3, Changchow, British str., for Newchwang.
- 3, Empress of China, Br. str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Glenearn, British str., for Keelung.
- 3, Ichang, British str., for Cebu.
- 3, Kjeld, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
- 3, Lightning, British str., for Singapore.
- 3, Namsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Tacoma Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Victoria, Swedish str., for Haiphong.
- 3, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
- 4, Cambyses, British str., for Moji.
- 4, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 4, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Hilary, German str., for Saigon.
- 4, Huichow, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Linan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Singan, British str., for Hoihow.
- 4, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Batavia.
- 5, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
- 5, Tjiliwong, Dutch str., for Batavia.
- 5, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Swatow.
- 5, Yunnan, British str., for Amoy.
- 6, Drufar, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 6, Fook sang, British str., for Singapore.
- 6, Freya, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
- 6, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Halvard, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.
- 6, Knivsberg, German str., for Pakhoi.
- 6, Mandasan Maru, Jap. str., for Miike.
- 6, Tango Maru, Japanese str., for Keelung.
- 6, Tourane, French str., for Europe, &c.
- 6, Yatshing, British str., for Foochow.
- 7, Anghin, German str., for Swatow.
- 7, Bingo Maru, Jap. str., for London, &c.
- 7, Clam, British str., for Woosung.
- 7, Hinsang, British str., for Yokohama.
- 7, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
- 7, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

- 7, Muncaster Castle, Br. str., for Whampao.
- 7, Prometheus, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
- 7, Scandia, German str., for Singapore.
- 7, Soshu Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 7, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 7, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Japan.
- 8, Caledonien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Chipshing, British str., for Swatow.
- 8, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 8, Delta, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Locksun, German str., for Bangkok.
- 8, Phranang, German str., for Hoihow.
- 8, Simongan, Dutch str., for Saigon.
- 8, Yingchow, British str., for Shanghai.

## PASSENGERS.

## ARRIVED.

Per Kaifong, from Cebu, Mr S. Stephen.

Per Pheumpenh, from Saigon, Mr. Fleuriot.

Per Soshu Maru, from Anping, &c., Mr H.

C. Best.

Per Laisang, from Calcutta, &c., Lieut. G.

Bagley.

Per Haiyang, from Coast Ports, Messrs Cross and Knote.

Per Yingchow, from Shanghai, Messrs Ward, Cavallier, McAllum and Ling.

Per Hongkong, from Haiphong, &c., Mrs Forsyth, Mr Cook and family.

Per Caledonien, for Hongkong, from Singapore, Mr and Miss Malitami, Mrs Audoh, Miss Fushida, Messrs Schulte, Lewis & Malitami; from Saigon, Messrs Thompson, G. Ramandass and B. Dandoomall.

Per Tamba Maru, from London, &c., Mr and Mrs J. Bryan, Mr and Mrs J. Johnston, Miss B. Johnston, Masters A. Johnston and J. Johnston, Messrs J. B. Chapman, J. McDonald, J. Nucator, K. Johnston and Aubrey.

Per Monteagle, for Hongkong, from Vancouver, Mrs E. C. Minor, Misses M. Zenfetey and C. Minor, Messrs F. W. Richardson, E. F. Williams and C. C. Mackee; from Kobe, Miss E. C. Taylor and Mr Thomas Taylor; from Shanghai, Messrs W. F. Wingrove, J. Quinn, W. H. Birchenough and W. Hayden.

Per Delta, for Hongkong, from Bombay, Mr E. Abraham; from Colombo, Mr J. G. Jamieison; from Gibraltar, Lieuts. J. O. F. Pima and J. Oliviera; from Marseilles, Mr S. C. Morgan; from Penang, Mr T. Bellman; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs A. Jackson, Mr and Mrs K. E. Pease and child, Messrs L. Cohan, W. W. Clarke and F. B. Rickett.

## DEPARTED.

Per Zafiro, for Manila, Mr and Mrs S. Furgusson and child, Mrs E. E. Grant, Messrs J. McArthur, D. Sandborn, S. A. Lane and C. Graves.

Per Bingo Maru, for London, &c., Mr and Mrs Wilson and child, Mrs Fremont, Major T. Quinuma, Commander H. Saito, Captain S. Yamanouchi, Messrs M. Nitta, J. P. Mahomed, P. Grant, J. Fujii, M. Yoshimura, L. A. Goldsmith and Beagtey.

Per Tourane, for Marseilles, &c., Mr and Mrs Pelletier, Mr and Mrs Otto Soroko, Mr and Mrs Verard, Mr and Mrs Petit, Mrs and Miss Flint, Mrs T. Kawaguchi, Mrs Astaing, Mrs R. Erotrin, Dr. Bonillet, Capt. Picard Destelan, Messrs Flemist, Pierobow, J. Brunner, Wegelin, Douarinon, H. W. Holmes, A. Engel, Mahe, Revert, Cohen, A. Besker, S. Hatsu, Hotchand, A. Spencer, B. Sanchez, Bichet, Belalorte, J. Lamsur, Bohemer, Tomassone, P. Oger, H. Bemoulin and Sarrett.

Per Prinz Regent Luitpold, for Bremen, &c., Mr and Mrs C. T. Cole, Mr and Mrs M. C. Dekuz, Mr and Mrs Lewis and child, Major and Mrs Cornwall, Mrs Kolbe, Mrs Kaumann, Mrs J. O. Seaton, Mrs Consul da Vella, Misses F. Kuehn, E. de Olivier, V. Palmer and Helen Woodall, Capt. W. Fretwell and family, Dr. Schneider, Messrs H. H. Arnhold, Hans Bulow, B. P. Bresley, B. B. Butler, Bergstrasser, G. Bruipbacher, J. L. Chapman, T. F. Chapple, Ewest, van Elten, S. F. Fisher, H. Friedrich, E. Gerz, R. Gatelpis, A. v. Hafmann, H. Jungmann, B. Krug, A. Kwost and family, O. Lindner, W. C. Lingdon, Poppe, P. Peis, Rotondi, A. Schaefer, Sochovsky, J. Symington, H. Cumwars and son, W. A. Scar, M. S. Tarbell and C. G. Thomson.

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